

# **DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAIN STREAM:**

**Causes and Remedies**

**Dr. S.P. Vaid**









# **DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAINSTREAM**

## **CAUSES AND REMEDIES**



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## **CAUSES AND REMEDIES**

*Edited by :*

**Dr. S.P. Vaid**

*M.A. (Pol. Sc., History)  
B.Ed., Ph.D.*



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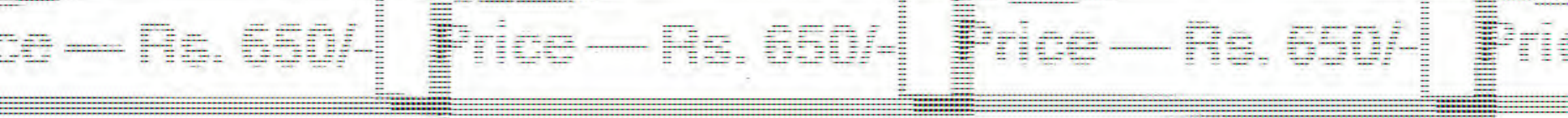
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**DEDICATED TO  
YOUTH OF INDIA**









GOVERNOR  
JAMMU & KASHMIR



RAJ BHAVAN  
SRINAGAR-190 001


## FOREWORD

The youth of a Nation are its great asset who can take it to a glorious future. They owe great responsibility both to themselves and to the Nation. They have to equip themselves to face all challenges to emerge successful in their chosen field. At the same time, they have also to contribute to the progress of the society and the Nation.

In the present age of scientific and technological explosion, when the world has been making astounding material progress, there has been decline in moral values. The youth of previous generations in the last century had many role models to look up to and to draw inspiration from them. Today, there is a grave paucity of such role models in our public life. Thus, the views of distinguished personalities with different background, are of inestimable value to guide and counsel the youth. We in India, are the inheritors of a great civilisational heritage. While we must keep pace with all the modern material progress, we must never lose our moorings embedded in our values and culture. Mahatama Gandhi expressed his views in this regard, with great clarity. "I want to keep the windows of my mind open to winds from outside but always keep my feet firmly planted on my soil."

An educationist of great repute, Dr S P Vaid has done yeoman's service in compiling 30 articles in this book written by eminent personalities from different walks of life, giving their views on causes and remedies for the youth getting derailed from the mainstream. This book is an excellent compendium for the benefit of the youth but also of help to their parents and their teachers in their interaction with them. I have cursorily gone through these articles and I am deeply impressed by their quality. I commend this book to all.

Raj Bhavan, Srinagar  
10 May, 2007

  
(Lt Gen (Retd) S K Sinha, PVSM)  
Governor of J&K







*Ghulam Nabi Azad*

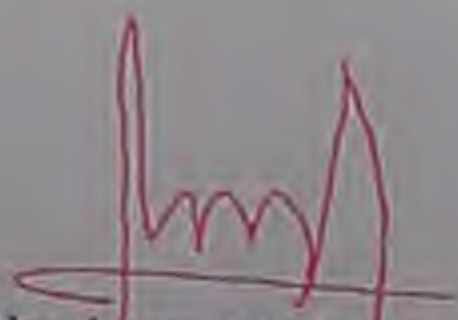
**CHIEF MINISTER**  
Jammu and Kashmir  
Srinagar



## Message

The youth are the main instrument of change. They constitute the most significant part of the population of any nation. It is heartening that Dr. S.P. Vaid, has chosen to collect literature concerning youth authored by various intellectuals from diverse areas of activity. This compendium would certainly help the planners, the policy makers, and the administrators to understand the problems facing youth, their behavior and the modalities of the possible remedies. Dr. Vaid has put in enormous labour to consolidate this information which could be of immense benefit for evolving strategies to bring back the youth into the mainstream.

Srinagar,  
4th June 2007.



(Ghulam Nabi Azad)







सुनील दत्त  
SUNIL DUTT

मंत्री  
युवा कार्यक्रम एवं खेल  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली-110 001

MINISTER  
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI-110 001



14-07-2004

Dear Dr. Vaid Ji,

I am really touched by your greetings, on my being inducted in the Central Cabinet as Cabinet Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports.

Over 40% of the population of India consists of Youth. We have collectively to fulfill their aspirations, their dreams, because they are the future of our great Nation. I am sure, you will help me and will stand by me whenever I need you for the youth of our country and for the cause of sports.

I am grateful to our respected leader; Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, who have given me a challenging task. It can be achieved with your support, your good wishes and blessings.

Thanking you, *Sunil Dutt*

Yours sincerely,

*Sunil Dutt*  
(SUNIL DUTT)

Dr. S.P. Vaid  
85-Subhash Nagar, Jammu (J&K)







Minister for  
Education, Haj & Aqaf, Science & (Tech).  
and Information (Tech.), J&K Govt.

*Peerzada Mohammad Syeed*



## Message

It gives me immense pleasure to note that a book is being published on the topic of derailing youth. This compilation an effort by the intellect class will be the great service to the nation.

The youth, future of the nation and pride of ours can contribute to the hilt of their strength and stamina.

I register my personal appreciation and ask for all efforts to guide the youth in positive direction and to render a great service for the cause and for the pride of nation.

I hope this book will serve the purpose and prove that objectives are achieved through intellect effort. In the meantime I attribute this success of intellect mobilization for youth welfare to Dr. S.P. Vaid (Senior fellow) ICSSR who is pivotal to bring this book in the knowledge of all concerned for betterment of the youth and the future of the nation.

*Peerzada Mohammad Syeed*  
26.4.07.

Jammu  
26th of April, 2007

Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed







**Babu Singh**

**MINISTER INCHARGE**  
Youth Services & Sports, ARI, Trainings  
and Stationery & Printing  
(J&K) Srinagar.



## Message

Fifty percent Indian youth represent population of the country. Unfortunately majority of the youth is directionless, socially and economically insecure due to faulty educational and social system.

Today, mankind has entered into a new Epoch of Globalisation, facing dangerous Environmental and Humanitarian crisis which is threatening Human and Bio-Life of the Planet Earth, due to pollution and global warming. For this extinction challenge, present growth and profit oriented unsustainable system is responsible.

Youth being the backbone and future of human society have to play a pivotal role for re-modelling Global Human Society. The need of the hour is to retrieve the youth from directionless path and make them, responsible for change, as aforesaid. This can, however, be done only when the youth is fully empowered constitutionally with assured social security.

Dr. S.P. Vaid's endeavour to bring out this book is commendable and provides an insight how to fully utilize this huge idle human resource in a gainful and rational manner.

*Babu Singh*

Jammu  
25th of April, 2007

(BABU SINGH)





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## **PREFACE**

Why this book? Why a full scale discussion on the subject “Derailing of Youth from Mainstream – Causes and Remedies”. Many books on the topic are already in circulation. Why one more?

Permit me to give you just a little background. Three years ago, I received a thought provoking letter from the then Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India, New Delhi, late Padam Shri Sunil Dutt (Balram Ji). Here is what he said : “Over 40% of the population of India consists of Youth. We have collectively to fulfill their aspirations, their dreams, because they are the future of our great Nation. I am s̄are, you will help me and will stand by me whenever I need you for the youth of our country and for the cause of sports”

The letter was indeed a source of inspiration for the project in hand and the thought of it stayed with me. The more I observed, the more people I talked with, the deeper I dug into what’s really behind the success of our youth, the clearer was the answer that we have to restore confidence among them by ensuring their active participation in nation’s building endeavours, coupled with emphasis on moral and spiritual values through quality education. The inculcation of moral values in youth from childhood is indeed a stupendous task of teachers. Let the youth of the country be provided with opportunities to work with a vision and a missionary zeal towards a higher and a nobler cause. This will transform them into fine human beings. Such a transformation is, no doubt, the sole aim of education.

The involvement of the youth for positive and creative activities at the gross root level in society, in general, and in the



educational institutions, in particular, would go a long way in tapping the inherent human resources in the youth and in channelising their energies for the betterment of the society.

One cannot deny the fact that younger generation today faces challenges graver than any which their forefathers confronted. It goes without saying that the Indian youth are supposed to know their responsibilities and duties towards their motherland. They must realize that protection of hard-won freedom and national reconstruction are tasks ahead of them. There is no room for defeatism, boredom and depression. Maintenance of communal harmony is another task in front of our youth alongwith civil-defence measure, nursing, first aid and establishment of blood bank centre at all level.

In these hectic days of all talking, slogan hurling and fruitless endeavours the seemingly intellectual era urgently needs some kind of self-education in independent thinking and in the fundamental values of true living. Our generation, with its tearing hurry, dissipating aims and thoughtless activities might soon push the world down a precipice into some sort of a tragic catastrophe.

Viewing the whole problem of youth in one quiet sweeping gaze, any serene intellect if unclouded by prejudices, can easily perceive that country is putting its cart before its horse. Without recreating youth's personality, the creating of a healthy society of youth cannot be dreamt of. Mentally shattered and intellectually confused youthful individuals of today will, in all probability, take the form of unhealthy and self-destructive crowds of tomorrow.

Of late, every one including government has become conscious of the need to understand the youth in a rational perspective and study thoroughly their different expectations with regard to technological and scientific advances. The need of the hour is to tap the youth power by assigning special



responsibilities to them in the task of nation-building. The conscious application of idealism, imagination and courage of youths to the manifold task of development is entirely the hallmark of youth work. The youth work can usher in an era of constructive social work.

To realize the condition of modern youth in modern world is indeed a disheartening reflection, and many are the intelligent youth who have turned cynical in their attitudes sans courage and sans faith. The present scenario full of corruption, immoralities, mad and tearing adaptation of western ways of life, cruelties, directionless endeavours, frustration, dissatisfaction and general heartlessness are the symptoms of the benumbing influence on the youth.

To make an effort to compile literary, thought provoking material based on hard realities on the topic "Derailing of youth from mainstream – Causes and Remedies" collected from the highly reputed, well meaning, seasoned, articulate, amiable and elevated intellectuals, working in various fields, is an endeavour to find the problems directly related to the youth and his future and to develop a sound rational approach for the various needs of the youth.

This common pool of literature, it is hoped, will enable the reader, particularly those who are concerned with the youth welfare, to understand, where the youth of today stands and to find out ways and means to bring them on the right track and to mould them to become strong, virtuous, bold, brave, compassionate and outstanding citizen of tomorrow.

It is the right time to dive deep into such matters and to work out acceptable, practicable, workable and constructive strategies to give right direction to the youth to slog to succeed in life as they are endowed with tremendous energy, ability, potential, dynamism and raring to reach somewhere and fix for themselves any worthwhile cause to struggle for.

The cause and suggestions coming out with a literary flair are sure to be an eye opener to those who are interested for the well being of this section of society which forms 40% of the total population of the country and will also enable them to think deeply for the well envisaged and suggested remedies.

Through such books alone, the institutions which donot produce socially useful, morally strong and spiritually awakened youth, I am convinced, will one day come out with comprehensive programmes to mould the youth and help them to adopt the right way.

I have no words to convey my sense of gratitude, obligation and indebtedness to all, who have contributed to make my venture successful and also to enable me to produce a book consisting of rich, straight forward, sonorous and well oriented articles for the benefit of all i.e. government, society, families, individuals and particularly for the parents and heads of the institutions. I shall be failing in my duty to behold my deep sense of acknowledgement, appreciation and liability to Shri I.D. Soni and Sh. Bal Krishan Nagar for the co-operation they extended, the help they rendered to me to complete this volume successfully.

Jammu  
4th of June, 2007



Dr. S.P. Vaid



# DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAINSTREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Prof. M.R. Puri\*

In this age of globalisation society has become extremely materialistic with people trying to become rich overnight and acquire comforts of life at a fast rate by 'fair or foul means'. Our youth are also influenced by this environment of greed and luxury in which ethics has no role. Spiritual and moral values have been replaced by a commercial ethos which governs all human relationships.

During the freedom struggle the youth of the country were imbued with a spirit of patriotism and sacrifice for the country. But in post-independence India where political leaders and rulers are busy minting money, there is none to inspire the youth. They also want to become part of the acquisitive society. Therefore, it would be wrong to say that they are derailing from the mainstream. Rather they are with the mainstream. We would like them to be different and revolt against the unholy and corrupt influences in society.

I think there are two pre-dominant trends among our youth. There are youngmen who are talented and ambitious, who are career-minded and want to go ahead and compete with the best in the world. They are doing well in this competitive world and making their mark in various professions in their homeland as well as abroad. We are proud of them.

On the other hand there are youngmen who cannot cope with this cut-throat competition. They are left behind in the race and then lose their moorings. We refer to them when we talk of our youth derailing from mainstream.

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\* Formerly Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, Jammu.



In present day society there are many corrupting influences. The most damaging influence is that of films and television serials. They display sex and violence in naked form and exhibit scenes which do not conform to Indian traditions. These films are simply ruining our youth who endeavour to imitate the artificial life depicted in them and are likely to go astray in this process. The Board of Film Censors has a great responsibility to take firm steps to reform our film productions.

Another very important cause of the frustration of our youth is unemployment, especially of the youth who are highly qualified professionally. Nothing can be more depressing for a youngman than to fail to find a suitable job after the successful completion of his professional course. The various devices that are being employed by the State Governments to tackle this problem of educated employment are adding insult to injury. Highly qualified professionals are being offered jobs on contract basis or driven to try their luck in self-employment schemes on terms and conditions which are not very favourable to them. Regular jobs have become scarce.

If we want our youth not to slip from the right track, we have to keep them happy and satisfied. We have to clean public life so that rulers become role models for our youngmen. We have to eliminate corrupting influences from our society. And last but not least, we have to improve our education system by laying greater stress on value-based education and on the renewed role of culture, religion and values in the changing world. There is also a need to introduce relevant and job-oriented courses to enhance the employment potential of our young boys and girls.

We should harness the energies of our youth by involving them in various schemes of national re-construction like N.C.C. and N.S.S. and give them ample opportunities to display their talents in various fields. Let many flowers grow.

...



# YOUTH DERAILMENT OR ACTIVISM – A SOCIO-POLITICAL DILEMMA

Prof. Y.R. Malhotra\*

Youth form an important upcoming segment in any society. In India Youth comprise (i) uneducated or imperfectly educated and (ii) educated and those receiving higher education. Whenever we talk of “Youth derailment”, uppermost in our mind are youth organized as students of colleges and universities; it is so because the non-college/non university youth are neither problematic to administration nor are they so organized and enlightened to be demanding, or of serious consequence in the context of present discussion. Hence we shall spend greater part of our discussion on student youth and their activism, which is attracting the title of ‘derailment’ - a misnomer, in social context.

Derailment implies some sort of a disorder or not being on rails. “News of students trouble provokes spontaneous commentary from one and all, particularly from teachers and administrators asking why students have started acting so irresponsibly and outrageously? They also try to attribute sometime quite irrational motives and psychological processes to this so called errant behaviour attributing it to generation gap; students’ need to show their independence of their elders, or merely calling them tantrums without actually trying to investigate and understand the causes and consequence of student activism.” (Asha Arora, 1995).

For a youth to be on the rails, we shall have to understand his interactions with the society. Student activism, its derailment or orderliness, is a result of his interactions with parents since

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\* *Formerly Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, Jammu.*



childhood, with teachers after that, and finally with socio-political milieu around him (the latter having undertaken to ensure secure future of youth in terms of his/her employment). Let us try to understand these interactions in a sequential order.

**Parent - child interaction :** Children as they grow to become youth, undergo a change under the very eyes of their parents. Some parents are too concerned (or over-concerned) about shaping the future of their children. Some are concerned (normally); and some are not at all concerned about how their child is growing. Parents of the first category tend to pressurize a child into their own scheme of thought and thereby do harm to a child by suppressing the growth of child's own emerging directions of real aptitude or areas of strength, the pursuit of which (after recognition) may give a student job satisfaction thus maintaining him on "social rails". Parents, who are unconcerned cause wild growth of their child, who contribute towards social disorder; such parents are too pre-occupied with their own activities and leave the child to grow within limitations of paid employees viz Nannys & nurses, teacher, housekeepers or even boarding houses. Parents whose inter-se relations are fractured also contribute difficult children to the social milieu. The category of parents who are concerned normally about their children and participate positively in their growth, without curbing emerging initiatives in a child, may contribute orderly children with desired potential for the future social environment.

**Teacher-student interaction** is a very important relationship in the life of a young growing individual. In olden times a teacher's main concern was his students and students always looked towards their teachers as role models of integrity and professionalism. The role of a teacher towards derailment of students may be a consequence of disinterested and non-professional approach of teachers whose concern for their students is waning so as to become just superficial and cosmetic relationship. Some of the teachers are incapable of inculcating such values in their pupils which go to make the youth a useful citizen.



Functional changes and inadequacies in the institutions of learning also contribute to the disadvantage of a growing mind. The institutions, which contributed better citizens, with all round development of their faculties have now ceased activities of extra-curricular development of individuals. Participation in sports and physical activities was an important source of channelizing extra energy, which if not properly spent, tend to make a student unruly. Sports in the institutions are either absent or are restricted only to competitions, but not available to all on regular basis with objective towards expenditure of energy which is ebullient in a young body, and which if unspent, gets misdirected to create disorderliness of far reaching consequences. What is true of sports, is also true of other institutional activities like culture, debates and discussions, outings and field activities. Today's institutions have either no facilities for extra curricular activities or these institutions restrict their activities to core academic programs, which do not make complete, socially useful adults.

Poor academic performance of teachers make them fall qualitatively in the estimation of their students and this contributes to loss of moral authority of teachers vis-a-vis their students, which makes students non serious resulting in student unrest and indiscipline. Poorly equipped and disinterested teachers lose their authority on the student and therefore they cannot provide the leadership they are expected to give to their students. Moral authority of teachers on the students is an important factor in keeping students on rails. Motivation by teachers towards their students for serious pursuit of academic programs is an essential feature for keeping students on the rails. These days some teachers join the profession because of compulsions of unemployment, who though succeed in finding jobs for themselves, are not interested in total dimensions of the teaching profession. Such teachers have interests other than academic and resort to undesirable means of furthering their personal interests, in utter disregard of the system they are



working for. Students are always watchful of jealousies, troubles and ambitions of their teachers, which make a teacher weak in his moral authority towards the students, who therefore tend to exhibit disorderly behaviour. Teachers sometimes even use more active students to realize their own ambitions for personal betterment, be it administrative or political. They even go to the extent of using them to rebel against authorities or established institutional rules, regulations, traditions and norms.

### **Social, political and administrative factors as causative of student activism**

Student activism is not of general existence with majority of students not involved in activist movements, but they evoke the sympathy and consent of the majority of students or even of citizenry, if issues involved have social or political dimensions or reflect administrative inadequacies not only within the institutions where students agitate but even in the general social context.

Student activists generally come from field of social sciences and humanities and not as much from fields of sciences or those perusing professional studies. Although uncertainty or having no hope of employment after successful completion of their studies have now made even professional areas susceptible to institutional disorder. The insecure students community not caring for their future is also the main factor of disorder.

Student activism is also stimulated by broader political questions or inadequacies in the society, which may emanate as a catalyst for popular social action.

Several attempts have been made to investigate the motivating factors which initiate various types of student activism. There are components inherent in the situation of youth and students which show up as a symbol to protest against the dominance of adult world. Youth movements may be due to the biological facts of their age, and sociologically, to their reactions to major issues, in the society which are more pronounced in the periods of rapid social change when



the youth takes up extreme positions. This behaviour may be considered as an effort on part of students/youth to enter the society, with their own identity. The objective of students is not towards effecting social breakdown or societal change, but only an effort towards their own accommodation, as new identities in the prevailing social order. The Unesco report "In partnership with Youth" 1969 attributes student activism and unrest in the society, as a failure of establishment to foresee the emerging consequences of population explosion and lack of foresight in managing education and employment policies in relation to growing demands and population growth. In the Indian context, student unrest erupts periodically, with issues involved being mostly related to employment opportunities after studies at the core of it, though institutional issues of physical facilities become the face of such agitations. It is so, because to a majority of youth and their parents education is a means to getting a job. The youth is genuinely impatient in prevailing uncertain surroundings and does not appreciate the avoiding tactics and false promises given to them by the governing adults (particularly political functionaries), who have doubtful credibility.

Student dissent and student power are a source of interest and concern for the adult world. They exercise a powerful influence on the contemporary social order. It can effect public opinion, change government policies or even topple Governments. The Berkeley student revolt of 1964 (Asha Arora, 1995) is an example of political awareness and motivation which forced the U.S. Govt. to withdraw from Vietnam war. Students had organized themselves in over throw of Peron in Argentina in 1955, the downfall of Rhee Govt. in Korea and resignation of Kishi Govt. in Japan. Anti Sokarno revolt in Indonesia in 1966 are all results of student anger against social & political order. In India in 1974-75 students of Bihar under leadership of Jai Prakash Narain played a significant political role, mobilizing public opinion against misrule. We



have an example of students organizing against Govt. in Assam, resulting in Chief Ministership for a student leader. We have more examples of student activists protesting against Govt. functioning thereby making disorder a means for climbing the political ladder through such activism, which encourages other students to follow the example to become successful.

In India, students have played a significant role in the attainment of political freedom and have participated even in Quit India Movement. The Indian National Congress in its prolonged struggle activated the youth, particularly, the students, towards the goal of attainment of freedom. Students were associated with national politics when Gandhi Ji launched his Non-cooperation Movement.

Students trouble in educational institutions or streets provokes concern and is looked upon by teachers and administrators as an irresponsible act which according to them, students/youth acquire in isolation as a malady. Elders (teachers, administrators and politicians) try to attribute this violent behaviour only to weakness in students for which they themselves are not responsible and try to get away by using terms like generation gap, or derailment, and try to hold only students responsible for this erring disorderly behaviour. Such agitation may even be called as derailment, only because it is not in consonance with expectations of elder generation (when they compare with themselves when they were in identical situation of age, function, growth and activity). Today people with deeper insight call it as 'Student Activism' with flavour of trade unionism exhibited for the interest of student community, which term recognizes an element of positivity in this behaviour of youth compared to unruly behaviour or derailment which denotes negativity on the part of the subject (viz student/youth). In derailment youth alone is held responsible for his behaviour, but activism is a social need-based demand by the transforming youth on the governance of the day, both academic and socio-political (in a democratic set up). Hence



the youth in a college or a university has a right to carve out a secure future for himself and his reaction to any failure or complacency on the part of governors of his future (viz. teachers, administrators and politicians) evokes a reaction, which, if not attended properly, assumes a negative complexion of derailment.

The students in the university and colleges are at an impressionable age and have plastic minds. They should not, by any chance form an impression that authorities are apathetic to their problems, otherwise they may resort to direct action, which tends to assume the shape of derailment. Our first and foremost task should be to restore their confidence, and in doing so, there is a need towards improvement of relationship between the teacher, the taught and the administration. Students deserve a better deal towards recognition of their problems and should not be made to suffer for faults which are not theirs. However, students or anti-social elements indulging in unjustified violence or vandalism or destruction of property must be severely dealt with under existing laws, which are quite strong and sufficient to contain such anti social activities.

Youth are an indispensable human resource (in any society) which must be mobilized towards welfare of the society. This is possible if we take their problems seriously. Youth are nation's most valuable asset, and a nation invests a lot in their growth to adulthood, and no body, be it teachers, peers or political leaders, should be permitted to divert the energies of youth towards destructive channels. Even counseling sessions for parents for bringing up their children in a desired manner should be organized by the society, the administration and the educational institutions. It is no use looking at youth unrest as a trivial matter, but one must look deeper into this malaise. It is no use thinking that youth/student unrest can be done away with by keeping their problems under the carpet because such problems with contemporary eruptions are



symptoms of dissatisfaction which need treatment by the adult society.

The crux of my approach towards "Youth derailment" is "Let the socio-political order assure a secure future without economic uncertainties to the youth" then I can foresee overwhelming majority of problem free youth entrenched on social rails, with only anti-social elements off the track, who can be taken care of by law and order of the State.

...

# WHY ARE THE YOUNG GOING ASTRAY?

Prof. A.C. Bose\*

My first response to this question is the counter question, are they? If so, then from what and in which direction? Obviously, when the elderlies put this question they mean, with a sense of sorrow, if not horror, that the modern youth refuse to tread the proper path prescribed by tradition or suggested by their parents. They question the values of the past, the preferences of their parents, and the prescriptions of their religion. Then, so what? Are they, in any way, worse for that? The term, 'astray' has an undesirable connotation, a repelling flavour, about it. But, do the modern youth deserve to be treated with contempt or pity? Surely they would if only they are worse off than most of their elders. But, I do not see so. India is progressing; the youth are her torch-bearers and path-breakers, and in varying degrees they are determined to carve out a bright future, through the latest means available. What is the wrong therein? I do not see any. Yet, most of us lament the fact that they no longer abide by what we say, but try to see and to do things in their own way. Surely, we are sorry over our loss of authority. The moral authority that our grand-parents wielded over our parents, and the latter over us few of us can afford to dream of in relation with our children. Naturally, we are sorry about the social scenario, but the nation possibly has no reason to regret. So, it is better that we try to find out, why our youth appear rebellious, and most of the time for fairly good reasons.

The modern world is one of reasoning, enterprise, and opportunities, and India, willy nilly, has entered that world of cut-throat competition. All the progress mankind has registered

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in the last few centuries are based on their questions, their success in unraveling and utilizing the mysteries of nature, and in defying the social prescriptions handed down from a static authoritarian past, but no longer suitable for a new dynamic present. So, the modern man trusts in reasoning more than in religion, and questions the tenets that refuse to recognize the individuality, the dignity, and the basic equality of man. No use lamenting; the present trend is not going to change. It is the order to this world.

Why should the youth obediently follow the norms laid down by their tradition and elders, when those were largely responsible for keeping us slaves for centuries, denying the members of certain castes their right to live and to move as human beings, and confining our women within the four walls of the house, sacrificed to the cause of service, without any right or voice? They point out with pride that India is being emancipated by those who defied the tradition by going abroad, taking forbidden food, learning English and Sciences instead of Sanskrit or Persian, and by taking to occupations not considered fit for them by tradition. We too are, unfortunately, selective in our expectations and criticisms. We encourage our children to prove their worth through worldly success, at home or abroad, but resent when they choose their own life partner. We expect our daughters and daughters-in-law to compete with their kind in the rest of the world, but at the same time to be silently at the beck and call of their in-laws. We expect our sons to accumulate more and more money and to scale further heights in their chosen professions, but also expect them to be as dutiful to with their brothers and sisters, as our parents were. In fact, while complaining that the youth are going astray, we really do not mind the caste taboos and family traditions they do, because they have to, violate every day. We only cry in despair when they defy our advice, "This far but no further", and find our authority questioned and expectations ignored. So, we too are, in a way, a party to leading them astray in search of success



that we seek for them. Search for success does not recognize any Laksman Rekha.

We the elders, the parents and peers of the young, also provoke them to go astray, in the conventional sense, through our own conduct. We and the so-called leaders of the society assert, "Duty first self last", "Honesty is the best policy", and "Love thy neighbour is thyself", but in our day-to-day lives we act only to promote our self-interest, use all dishonest means to make money and to acquire power, and leave no stone unturned to exploit a neighbour, who is weak and whom we envy. Even if many of us are not that bad in our daily lives it is such people of power and pelf whom we and the rest of world hold in high regard and seek to emulate. The young are fed-up with our "Do as I say not as I do" attitude. Now they pay scant regard to what the much-admired elders and leaders say, but try to imitate what they really do, and whom they really respect and follow. These have created for our young a really valueless world, where self and opportunism reign supreme. In fact, every one has gone astray.

This, however, is a very dangerous and worrying situation. One need not be a Marxist to accept that if the material factors constitute the base for the values governing the society, the moral values create the super-structure that completes the social citadel. The values reflecting the social realities, to a great extent, constitute a force that hold the people together to form a society and a polity. The great 20th century philosopher, Sir Bertrand Russell, very aptly said that, while socio-cultural norms should not be too strong to allow the individual sufficient freedom of thought, expression, and action, it also should not be too weak to hold the group together and save it from disintegration. Some sort of faith is essential to hold a people together, but that faith has to be sufficiently flexible, reflecting the prevailing needs and beliefs of the time. But, unfortunately, in India nothing new, no new system of values, appears on the horizon poised to replace what is

inevitably crumbling. So, the leaders of the society should make it a point not to lament over what is destined to disappear, but to try to evolve and to teach the youth, through example, a new set of values that extols human dignity, supremacy of reasoning, relative equality among all in certain matters, and concern for collective happiness, in particular of the age, the poor, and the weak. The new religion should ask people to see God in humanity, to share their joys and sorrows with others, and to believe in the maxim, "Hands that help are holier than the lips that pray".

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# DERAILMENT OF YOUTH FROM MAINSTREAM—ITS CAUSES AND REMEDIES

I.D. Soni\*

## Background :

Youth in any country form its backbone. It is on youth's shoulders that the responsibility for change, progress and innovations lies. Youth are starry-eyed, full of idealism and bubbling with energy to honestly fight for a cause. Youths are supposed to hold the bright torch of the nation aloft, undimmed and untarnished, so that light reaches every home and brings well being to general masses. It is the youth who have the necessary courage and initiative to break out the taboos and crippling practices. Maotse Tung of China realized this latent power and dedication of the youth of his country. He, therefore, entrusted them with the cultural revolution – a movement intended to weed out the deadwood in the party, who stood for status quo. Again in our own country, our youth played a significant role in the freedom struggle and made considerable sacrifices.

At the present moment, both India and the world are faced with very difficult and complicated problems for the solution of which, the irrepressible enthusiasm, burning hopes, dedication, aspirations and energy of youth are needed. It is no exaggeration to say that the responsibility for rebuilding the country lies mainly on their shoulders. It is also quite evident that it is in their own interest to take up this task of reconstruction with a strong determination. Their success in life depends mostly on the eagerness and skill with which they set themselves to the task.

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## **Problems of Youth :**

East or west, north or south, youth everywhere under the sun, is in a State of restlessness and revolt. It was so in the past and it shall be so in future as well, howsoever, glamorous and glittering the social fabric might become and howsoever secure and stable they might feel under the new dispensation. The young have never rested on their past laurels nor have they felt contented with their present possibilities. The chords of their impulses, instincts and intuitions are always vocal and vibrant. No doubt, the problems of youth in different parts of the world under different socio-political systems differ in contours and contents. But one thing is almost certain that the modern youth is up against problems, the like of which did not exist in the past.

Indian youth, as is evident everywhere, are going through turbulent times. Ever since independence, the youth of the country has been going adrift and has derailed from the 'Main stream' to a large extent. They feel alienated and frustrated. Today, in all parts of the world the youth feel restless, suffocated and oppressed. They have no faith in religious authority, they distrust the traditional code of conduct and they want immediate solutions.

They no longer believe that university is the place where they can gain knowledge under conditions laid down by the authorities and acquire the qualifications which bring success in life, taking interest in political, economical and social affairs of the day only as detached observers. They resent these conditions and insist on more positive role in shaping the human destiny. The youth in India, for decades, has felt neglected. Consequently their energies and stamina are getting misdirected into negative thinking and destructive activities. They have, therefore, derailed from the mainstream and the havoc that is wrought by their indisciplined and frustrated attitude is seen in the troubled campuses of universities all over the country. The student community seems oblivious of the purpose for which they enter educational institutions.



Breach of social order, good moral behaviour, self-accepted and self-maintained social values of life in youths are creating problems for him and helping him to become derailed from the main stream. Youth of today lacks the courage, the willingness, the inspiration and the approach to put forth all the effort that is required to achieve an object deliberately chosen.

Steven muller, President, Johns Hopkins university has rightly remarked that their universities are turning out skilled barbarians because they do not provide a framework of values to young people, who more and more are searching for it. The other problem with the youth is that no efforts have been made, at any level, particularly, in the country to make balanced development in intellectual education and value oriented education. The result is that the youth has no education to assimilate himself to his grand spiritual and cultural traditions to the extent he requires.

The other riddle with the youth of today is that he does not have the capability or inclination to realize the importance of practical knowledge or education which equips him with the knowledge and skill to find or make all that is necessary, useful and beautiful for the healthy and progressive management of life. Consequently, he does not possess the requisite training or knowledge as may help him to be correct and precise in his activities, to be refined and gentle in his manners, to find sound standards of appreciation of beauty and worth, to learn habits of reflection and thoroughness, and to acquire power to do his duties effectively.

The great scientific philosopher Bertrand Russel, makes the clear admission that the youth who can centre his thoughts and hopes upon some thing transcending himself can find a certain peace in the ordinary troubles of life which is impossible for the pure egotist (the conquest of Happiness. P:74). The worst education that teaches self-denial, said sterling, is better than the best that teaches everything else and not that. The youth of today is puzzled on this account and does not want



to get away from self-concentration. Lazy will, fear of pain, greed for pleasure and a host of other evils invade the youthful mind and imprison it within the narrow walls of self-regarding motives which bring his derailment from the mainstream.

The youth of today always look for the negative because he gets negative influences from peer pressures, media, television, newspapers, magazines, radio, movies; etc, cultural background, religious background, traditions and beliefs, social environment and political environment. The consequences of this negative attitude are that there is a bitterness, resentment, purposeless life and high stress in him and such an environment pushes him to become derailed from the right and positive path.

There is a trend among youth to serve the senses instead of serving God and truth. When luxury, lustfulness, impiety and lawlessness go unpunished, or are overlooked, or are regarded as virtues, know that the doom of that nation is not far away. When a nation has no ideal to follow, when each youth is puffed up with vanity, thinks himself to be his own master, when religion and faith are pooh-poohed, and scepticism, the youth of false reasoning, is highly extolled, honoured and followed, know the death warrant of that nation has already been issued.

Youth of today has become the part of that has been said above and is presiding over the destiny of the nation and is leading it to moral deterioration by having grave social distemper, the wide-spread imitation of all western modes of behaviour and thought and a callous trampling down of the spiritual values which this great country had cherished for centuries. This clearly indicates that the youth has become completely directionless.

The life of a modern youth is highly complicated. It has just grown into a science from just an art. Natural colour and flavour of life have been removed by the modern scientific and technological advance. The life of the youth is like a shuttlecock in the busy atmosphere. Youth has become a slave of science and technology. With advancement of science



and technology the sweeter aspects of life are receding to the background. Comforts to the maximum have snatched the youth's all taste and pleasures from natural life. Youth is completely away from the nature and has no time to enjoy the beauty of nature and appreciate it.

### **CAUSES FOR THE DERAILMENT OF YOUTH FROM MAIN STREAM**

1. It is rather strange that the most prized asset of the country's population has not got its due share in social decision making.
2. The society has not yet accepted this most energetic and active constituent of the population as a group deserving special attention.
3. In the developing countries youth themselves are not coming forward due to the pressing problem of hunger, unemployment and defective education (which is costly and irrelevant or redundant).
4. Youth are vulnerable to the influence of politicisation and general dependence on elders.
5. In rural areas youth motivation is either too feeble or has not reached as yet. As a result youths have not received recognition, which is legitimately due to them.
6. Youth resurgence is a phenomenon of our age through which young people are forcing themselves on the attention of the older people. Hitherto, older people have been accustomed to take young people for granted.
7. Youths have not been treated as a group or class. The generation gap has become world wide phenomenon. The gap is widening geometrical proportion.
8. The youth in our country feel that their socio-economic system is not functioning properly and 'men-in-power' (especially politicians) are mis managing politics. They are activated by highly emotional and idealistic urges.
9. They feel alienated and, therefore, to a certain extent, frustrated. Unless there are worthy causes or challenging



problems to give our youth a chance to show their mettle, there is bound to be a sense of direction less ness and dissatisfaction.

10. Parochial thinking along caste and communal lines has been causing extensive damage to the fabric of our natural structure and the youth is finding no where himself in this narrow atmosphere.
11. Life has changed so fast in the last few decades, that the entire social structure has undergone a big change. Besides over population, political upheavals, unemployment, erosion in Indian values, influence of western civilization and too much commercialization has made the life of the youth very complicated and had led him to feel isolated and derailed.
12. Ever since the country went in for massive industrialization, the old joint family system broke down and became obsolete. It has been replaced by nuclear family system specially in urban areas. As a consequence, the young are left alone to fend for themselves at a time when they need guidance, reassurance and encouragement. They begin to depend more on their peer groups and generally are led astray. They take to drugs, alcohol and watching porn films to while away their time and nurse their hurt feelings. They are too bewildered to distinguish right from wrong. The absence of an adult to guide them makes it difficult for them to make the right choices and weigh the pros and cons of any act.
13. Religion had played a very crucial role in the life of the young people of our country. It is sad that of late we have started denigrating our own religious beliefs and age old values and have started aping the west. This slow erosion in the values of life has added to the confusion. The young no longer understand the significance of certain beliefs and practices. Hence, they reject them. Religion formed the basis of sound moral development.



14. Today, the young have to face fierce competition in every sphere of life. They are expected to prepare themselves for the set backs. Overpopulation has made life very competitive right from the time they enter secondary school. There is a pressure from parents, teachers and peers to excel to enter the colleges and get admission in the most lucrative professions. However, more often they are unable to get the course of their choice because of too many youngsters competing for the same course. It leads to unhappiness and frustration.
15. Even if the youth manages to get into a college of his choice and comes out with excellent marks and armed with a professional degree, he finds it difficult to get a job. His dreams are shattered when at every step he faces corruption, nepotism and finds the less deserving getting job. He feels disillusioned and disheartened when inspite of his best efforts he has to reconcile himself to start either at a very low rung of the ladder or to remain unemployed.
16. One can, quite naturally, ask, "But, why does man commit crime?" The question, though difficult, can be answered through different theories regarding the origin of crime, one which holds that criminal tendencies being inborn, man is by nature susceptible to crime. However, there is an other theory according to which crime is not inherent in man but is the result of environment. It appears that this latter view contains a great measure of truth. If a youth falls into evil ways, the fault lies in the environment and not in the youth. Increasing materialism has created a selfish environment for the youngmen and has also made them insensitive to human emotions of pity, compassion, generosity, and affection. Every young man wants to prosper materially at any cost. A rat race has started among the youth for material success. In this materialistic atmosphere, humaneness and human emotions



are at a discount. The youngmen are, therefore, bound to become over ambitious in such an atmosphere and when their expectations do not come true, they become ruthless, self centred and in different and this is the main problem today with the youth.

17. The youth of the country have not been able to grasp the central truth of service before pleasure, of putting others before self, all problems, therefore, have been poisoning the atmosphere. Communalism, regionalism, class rivalry, corruption - whether political, administrative or in the sphere of business - are all symptoms of a lack of faith, among the youngmen, in this great and basic principle of group action. What youngmen need most is a closer understanding of the problem, a deeper insight and self-examination.
18. The society has become very materialistic. Today a person is revered if he is successful in a position of power and riches. Wealth has become the yardstick of status in the society. The youth are also affected by these values and try to adopt short cuts to fast rise in life. Means are no longer important, it is the end that matters. Some idealistic youngsters who try to lead an honest life are soon become disgusted to see the corruption at every stage. They are forced either to join them or suffer silently.
19. Industrialisation has led to commercialization. From a very young age, the children are exposed to television where innumerable products are advertised to start life with all the good things it has to offer. Young boys do not hesitate to demand cash and other items along with the bride at the time of marriage, under the pressure from their parents or to satisfy their own greed. The youth cannot take independent decision for obvious reasons. He feels upset on certain occasions and thus becomes derailed from the main stream. The youth of today is, therefore, bound to face the moral problem as a social evil. The most obvious



cause of this evil is the upsetting of the standard of continence which, the youth in this country, used to observe. If the restraints are removed, one cannot make out where they shall be and to what extent they may go down.

20. Above all, our educational institutions are no longer fully prepared to fulfill the responsibility of helping the young to understand life fully. The outmoded curriculum, burden of several subjects and poor teaching de - motivate the young and they feel restless. Education is expected to prepare them for life.

As a consequence of this alien system of education, our educated people have begun to have split personalities, so much so that they cannot see any other purpose in their lives except that of mere living. No one can compute the great cultural loss our country has to suffer on account of this purposelessness. Besides the loss that our people are forced to suffer because of this kind of lopsided education in the intellectual sphere, there has been a heavy loss in the social sphere. The system, the medium and the course of education do not fit in the circumstances of the present day and therefore a basic and fundamental change in them appears to be necessary to save the youth to go astray. The present system of education does not prepare the youth to realize that the education and training will have no meaning for them or for their country until they are able to fulfill their obligations and duties which they owe to the Goddess Saraswati. Saraswati is but the creative energy of Brahma, whom the Lord of the Universe is always pursuing. Naturally, therefore, all those who are succeeding in winning the boons and blessings of saraswati have the supreme duty of dedicating themselves to the sacred task of creating the world a new. The universities and other educational institutions do not try to awaken this spirit of service and the urge for creation in the hearts of their students and to make them dedicated servants of humanity who would consider obligation to free human life from all its obstacles and maladies, all its short comings, failures



and frustrations; to develop in them the feeling and faith that it is their duty to consume themselves in the fulfilment of this noble mission by the creation of a new cultural and economic order.

### **Remedies :**

It is not an easy task to suggest some constructive, positive, practical and acceptable remedies for the problems of the youth. However, an attempt is made to suggest some correct and right measure which can go a longway to achieve well envisaged objectives to some extent. Such propositions cannot be construed to be the be-all and end-all. Much is needed to be done, at all level, to save the youth from further baffling, dissatisfaction, discontent and dis-appointment.

1. Youths have to be provided due and legitimate recognition. A nation that does not mobilize creative energies of its youth has no future. They must be made responsible to hold the bright torch of the nation aloft, undimmed and untarnished, so that the light reaches every home and brings well being to general masses.
2. Instead of just reminding the youths that they are leaders of tomorrow, special efforts have to be made, at all levels, to make them conscious of their role as citizens of today, makers of history and pillars of democracy. Youngmen have to be made to realize that they are not expected only to be the agents of change but as crusaders. They should be trained to develop an urge from within to adopt great ideals and not to lower these by ignoble compromises.
3. Every one is expected to know that the student community being a cohesive force is to play a dominant role. Youth are to be recognized, treated with respect and social leaders have to have dialogue with them. Dialogue means discussion, formulating and presenting of ideas, listening and cross examining young people with different views.
4. Tremendous capacity of young people needs institutional harnessing and translating it into, action programmes for socially accepted objectives. Some steps have to be



- taken to prepare the youth to be able to face hardships, challenges in life and to take measures of moral and social courage. Young people have to nourish this courage in their hearts and express it in their thoughts and actions.
5. Youths who come forward to act as the agents of change will have to face resistance. Areas with least or no resistance are to be chosen first. Groups of youth should function as real groups, employing group processes and try to be self-reliant.
  6. The youth have to be made to understand that they are expected to have idealism in mind, their vision should be wide and high but realistic and practical and they must know the ground realities. They must develop the habit of discipline which is essential in the attainment of success.
  7. Informal and non-formal education can play a great role to stimulate moral and spiritual thoughts through a correct philosophy of religion and practical education. Such an education can only equip the child with the knowledge and skill to find or make all that is necessary, useful and beautiful for the healthy and progressive management of life.
  8. If the Nation accepts the youth to cross new frontiers, to reach new horizons and new goals to achieve, they should be given freedom and opportunity. Only then they can aspire and excel. 'Youth' is really an attitude of mind. Youth is eagerness, desire to achieve, to know, to discover and the feeling all that is not behind him but ahead of him.
  9. The youth are required to be trained through the balanced development of intellectual and value oriented education to play a special role in the process of change, adaptation and growth. Their ideas have to be converted from mere intentions into concrete realities. It is the need to stress upon them to make their ideas and values as a part of their mental make up. Those who are concerned with



- the welfare of the youth must understand that there is ample scope of change in the present mode of thinking of the youth. They should be helped to discard redundant traditions, customs and conventions and irrelevant values while retaining the timeless values and faith in future.
10. Youth are an asset rather than a problem. They are receptive to new thinking. They are willing to innovate. It is the time to provide them the opportunities so that they should have the freedom from the chain of orthodoxy and to give up age long addiction to superstitions. It is, therefore, of over-riding importance to erect structures within which the resource of young can be marshalled for social beneficial tasks.
  11. The building up of new institutions or giving a new shape to the existing ones for a new society is the role of youth work. For this the youth leadership is to be mobilized. The conscious application of idealism, imagination and courage of youths to the manifold task of development in entirety is the hall mark of youth work. The youth work can and should lead the youth towards constructive social change.
  12. Among the several important problems that the world is confronted with, the one that is directly related to the youth and his future is to develop a sound rationale for the various needs of our times. There is on one hand an unprecedented explosion of knowledge and on the other hand a great limitation on time available to the youth during which the expanding knowledge has to be grasped, assimilated and mastered. Thus there is great dis-equilibrium. Experts are required to be called upon to the perplexing dilemmas of our social situation and to provide helpful guidelines. Numerous and valueable experiments are being carried out in different parts of the world to find out best possible remedy to face such a situation. There is an imperative necessity to bring



together these experiments and to project these in the frame work of a vision which the humanity is labouring to build up.

13. It is time, we should shed our partisan prejudices and work jointly for the progress of the country. It is the time that concerted efforts are made to rid our national life of caste and communal strife, so that there can be a homogenous, peaceful and progressive India. And no other section of society is more suited for the onerous task than the youth. They can, with their liberal outlook, decide to propagate this thinking among others also. They can go in for inter caste and inter community marriages and thus create fellow-feeling among different sets of people.
14. Today the youth is ready to bequeath his soul to the devil in exchange for pleasure and power like the mythical character. He is confronted with temptation at every step. He yields to it, though may later realise the price he had to pay for it in terms of losing his peace and happiness. It is because of all this that we find so much sin, evil and corruption. The only way out is the spiritual and moral regeneration through listening to the inner voice, the so called conscience which can never mislead man. The future of mankind is really in the hands of those who can bring about a reawakening youth's higher consciousness. The youth in the cities are to be guided in such a way that they can get in touch with the youth in the rural areas and educate them with a view to create a mass movement for the abolition of all social evils including corruption, untouchability, practice of dowry, poverty, illiteracy and ignorance, etc.
15. Another nagging problem that India faces today is that of population explosion. The youth of the country are the worst sufferer because all economic progress is being nullified by the increase in the population.



Government has, no doubt, initiated several measures to curb population. It is again the youth of the country who can be of tremendous help in solving this nearly unsurmountable problem. First they have to be prepared to resolve to limit their own families when they get married. The youth can organize camps in the rural areas with a view to educate them about the benefits of small families. They can only, if determine, do a lot to eradicate social evils from the society, particularly, corruption because they have the required boldness to unravel corrupt deals and officials and put them to shame. This will go a longway to prevent people from indulging in corrupt practices. The families, the society, the government and all other concerned with the welfare of the youth should become conscious of the need to tap the youth power. It is expected from all that they should associate them with the political and social activities more actively. It is essential that the young and dynamic youth should be given ample opportunities to participate in the task of nation building.

16. Lazy will, fear of pain, greed for pleasure an a host of other evils invade the youthful mind and imprison it within the narrow walls of self-regarding motives. To liberate minds from the domain of mere self-interest from the claims of egotism, there must be a sufficiently a strong motive. There is a well-tested age-old way based solidly on the foundation of divine philosophy and faith which always instills an ascetic temperament which naturally disposes one to self-sacrifice and higher adventure. It is to be impressed upon the youth that the spiritual life, which is the pursuit of universal ends, is the only best discipline to accomplish end and to seek happiness in life.
17. There is theory according to which crime is not inherent in man but is the result of environment. If such an



environment is removed, evil will be removed and youth will be free from crime. This theory contains a great measure of truth and gives scope for improvement in human behaviour. It is believed that if a healthy environment in a home, the school and the society is created, the youth is sure to give up the undesirable habits. There is, therefore, need to guide the youth to the right path and to enable them to lead a normal life.

18. It is the duty of all institutions including universities to teach wisdom, not trade; character, not technicalities. It is the opportune time to examine the real aims of all the institutions into which the different aspects of life are woven and to discover what changes in the character and constitution of each of such institution are necessary in the changed circumstances of today in order that they may be able to fulfill the well envisaged aims and purposes.

19. The system, the medium and the course of education were probably useful and appropriate under the circumstances of the age when they were established by the founders of the present educational system. Ever since India attained independence in 1947, we have been following, for inexplicable reasons, lord Macaulay's system of education. This system has since lost its relevance to the changed socio-economic scenario in the country and therefore a basic and fundamental change in them appears to be necessary. Our educational system should be such where there is a close relationship between the syllabi of our educational institutions and the economic life of our country. It should possess statistics which can provide necessary information as to how many educated workers are required in any particular economic sphere and, on the basis of this knowledge, educational institutions should guide students to make a choice of subjects that they are to study there. Moreover, the emphasis should be given



to create a faith in their alumni that the purpose of education is creation rather than enjoyment or ostentation. Education should not be treated as an ornament or an instrument for self-gratification. The youngmen and women are required to recognize the obligations and the duties which knowledge has laid on them.

20. It cannot be denied that it is the young who are going to be the builders of tomorrow. Therefore, it is the duty of the parents, the society, the elder, the leaders and the government to look into the problems of the youth sincerely, constructively, truly, candidly and rationally and to provide them a sense of meaning and purpose in life. They may be made to make a firm resolve that they would remain dedicated to such creative purposes as serve the economic and cultural interests of the country and they would sacrifice all their personal enjoyment till their country is prosperous and flourishing. If a youth wants to see a pious and godly world, he should have to be pious and godly himself. The youth deserves special care, encouragement, guidance, and inspiration, otherwise the boundless energy of the youth will be dissipated in the wrong direction and will lead to chaos in the country.

There is a need to have balanced growth of intellectual and value-oriented education in our institutions in order to save the youth not to become derailed from main stream. Modern education has contributed a lot to make the youth directionless, ungratified, balked, disappointed, disgruntled and disillusioned.

If our educationists awake to this degenerating defect of modern education and try to remedy it, then there is some hope of regaining the pristine glory and grandeur for which ancient India is deservedly famous throughout the world and would help to train the young boys and girls in virtuous dispositions and refined tastes and about holding before them attractive other-regarding motives so that they may grow up



ready to respond to the claims of service. Such an approach will definitely inculcate in the youth a sense of responsibility, intense desire to form a good character, positive believing, to give more than he gets, the power of persistence, pride of performance and be willing to do good to others and such and attitude can only bring him in the mainstream and to imbibe in him true citizenship.

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# DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAINSTREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Justice Rajindar Sachar\*

The question that is worrying everyone these days is as to why youth have lost all moral directions and what can be done to correct it and bringing him to mainstream. This question is posed evidently in the context of the idealism and the public spirit which was shown prior to 1947 and even a decade later amongst the youths in particular and which is not being shown by the present generation (of course there are significant exceptions). In order to appreciate this, one must be reminded of the morality and atmosphere prevailing and was a part of our life pre-1947.

There are many instances but I would like to emphasize only a few. The 1st is when Mahatma Gandhi was finalizing the members of the working Committee, he had, amongst others, included a member from one of the Northern States to be included in it but before he could formally announce him, information was sent to him apparently by the opponents of the gentleman to the following effect :-

It appears that a suit had been filed against that gentleman on the ground that some loan was taken by him which he did not return. Now, unfortunately amongst the legal profession it is common practice, though wrong, that defendant's lawyer advises his client to deny every thing even if it is true. Frankly, a busy person would not even bother to read what has been written for him by his lawyer. So, the reply from him was that he had not taken the loan and in the alternative if he had taken the loan, he was not to return it because it was barred by time—

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\* Chief Justice (Retd.) A-19, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110065



under law if an amount taken is not repaid for 3 years, recovery is barred and no legal proceedings are entertainable.

When Gandhiji read it, his immediate reaction was as follows :-

“I understand and appreciate that if a loan has not been taken reply should be that he has not taken the loan. But I cannot tolerate a person who says that he has taken the loan but he will not return it because it is barred by limitation.” Now, Gandhi ji was a lawyer himself. It was a normal defence, which usually was taken by the defendants in the legal profession. Frankly, in law there is nothing wrong also to take a defence that loan is a time barred and the defendant would not pay. But Gandhi ji was not looking at it from the point of view of an average person though there also he would have reacted differently. He was looking at it from a morality point of view and not as a legal defence. His response was that if a person has taken a loan and does not want to return it because in law the recovery is barred by time then such a person is not morally fit to be a member of the Congress Working Committee. The result was that though a person was fairly high up in the hierarchy of the Congress leadership and his inclusion would have been in the normal course, that person was not taken into the Congress Working Committee.

Compare this with the present stand of the political parties who very bluntly take a stand that though they may have been charged with a heinous criminal offence of murder, embezzlement, dacoity they are still insisting on continuing as ministers in the Central and State Govts. on the shameful ground that they have not yet been convicted. Forgetting that if they were convicted then the law, in any case would not allow them to remain a minister. It is here that moral question arises that even though not convicted but a prima facie case has been found by an independent court. Should such a person be allowed to hold the office of the Minister. Contrast this with what parliament itself has passed laws, that if there is a govt. servant



who is accused on a charge of ambazzlement and remains in police custody for 48 hours he will automatically be suspended and will be reinstated only if he is acquitted. Why should a different standard apply to the ministers or MLAs, is a question which obviously a young man will ask but there is no satisfactory answer, and still for us to blame the young generation that it has failed us is morally indefensible and cynical of us.

Second instance I would like to give is that when during the freedom struggle Gandhi ji had gone to collect persons and he met Mr. C.R. Das who was then a very top lawyer and asking him to join the Congress and give up his practice. CR, as he was commonly known, was a very mild mannered, honest person. He was at the top of his profession and earning very substantially. But, in all humility, he told Gandhiji "Bapu you are always having to run about collecting money for the cause. I earn so much but my expenses are very few. Don't you think that I will be of greater assistance to you if I could donate all that income to the cause of freedom." Gandhiji in his sweet enigmatic smile said "Mujehe Paise to bahut mil jayange, Mujehe Das chahiyaye" meaning thereby that I can collect lots of money but I want a person in the service of the country. CR did not take a minute to say yes and joined the freedom movement and was a beacon light in freedom struggle.

Such was the instance of renunciation, a burning desire for public service on which our generation was fed. Howsoever weak, indifferent, selfish our generation may have been, we could never forget these and many similar instances. The giving up of top practice by doctors, lawyers and other professionals voluntarily choosing a life of poverty and simplicity, receiving lathi blows without resorting to violence. These were the instances and stories on which our generation grew up. Wily nily, howsoever small minded, selfish we may have been, we could never erase from the memories these self-sacrificing heroes of public service. Evidently, they remain, in the worst of us, a small light which would stop us from behaving completely dishonestly or in a



shabby manner. So when we grew up, though we were of course not even a pale shadow of these great men but we at least had to feel ashamed within ourselves and amongst our colleagues if we strayed because we had strayed from the standards laid down by our elders. This moral stand continued for quite some time immediately after India became independent. Leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Azad etc. were ideals in public life, looked upon by the younger generation. Beacon light was continued by Jaiprakash Narain, Dr. Lohia who taught us that freedom has no meaning unless in terms of Gandhiji there is a smile on the face of the poorest of the poor. Selfishness and looking after ones own self interest is not the only object of living. As a matter of fact, there is always a sense of sin if one was not contributing to the improvement of the conditions of poor masses.

We had instances of the Central Ministers resigning because there was a small budget leak, Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned because there was a railway accident or our Finance Minister having to leave office because he had to act indiscreetly in the matter of one of his friends. Is it any wonder that our generation was able to retain some kind of moral fulcrum in our life? But to whom does a generation in the age-group of 0-34 which constitute 69% of the population of this country blame. And remember there is only 7% of population that is above the age of 60. So the standards have to be set by the kind of politics which is in vogue today rather than in the first decade after 1947. Thus, when they see corruption not only being a disqualification in public life but rather an advantage—they also see that public service which used to work as a bull wark, has become subservient to the political masters—can you blame the youth if they become cynical.

The ignorance and lack of understanding of history of freedom struggle amongst the present day intellectuals and politicians also acts as a damper. Thus imagine my shock when at a university function when discussing the role of



Gandhites one mentioned the name of Vinoba Bhave—one of the teacher asked anxiously who was Vinoba Bhave—I really wonder how many youth could tell about him.

But a more shocking reminder was when one came across an event which showed as to how even some of the older generations including the educationist were not only ignorant of our freedom struggle but for their understanding was so distorted. A news item appeared on Sept. 2004 to the effect that the class-VII students in Karnataka in their chapter of “Struggle for Freedom-Phase II” had omitted the names of Bhagat Singh and Chandrasekhar Azad. The justification for this deletion was given by S. Settar, visiting professor at National Institute of Advanced Studies to the following effect :-

“The deletion were not intentionally or politically motivated. Our idea was not to project controversial characters at the class-VII level, which is why these names were removed.”

Reading this, I could not contain myself at the sheer absurdity of this explanation by the so-called educationist. I thereupon wrote a letter to the Chief Minister which I am reproducing, which expresses my real feelings :-

“The news item appeared in the “Times of India’ dated 24.9.2004 Daily edition by its correspondent Mr. Mathang Seshagiri, (photocopy attached). The news item says that Mr. S. Settar has justified the deletion of the names of Chandrasekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh from Chapter 11 on “Struggle for Freedom – II Phase” as he thinks that this idea was not to project controversial characters at the class VII level. He, of course, mentioned Savarkar name. I do not wish to say anything about Savarkar name because this is already matter of national controversy between political parties. But I am very much concerned with the omission of names of Chandrasekhar Azad and Mr. Bhagat Singh. To me the explanation given is atrocious and unforgivable.



I have issued a public statement in this matter (copy enclosed). Everyone in India considers Chandrashekar Azad and Bhagat Singh as the top patriots whose lives are to serve as beacon light for our young children and inspiring them in the service of motherland. Anyone thinking otherwise does not deserve to be associated with the education in schools. I strongly feel that your Govt. should dissociate itself from this atrocious action. Karnataka Govt. should also show its genuine regret by immediately restoring the teaching of lives of these topmost patriots in the schools in the State.....”

A copy of this was also sent to the Governor of Karnataka. I had sent along with my letter a statement to the Press which had been issued by me and which expressed my feeling of revulsion at this totally unjustified step. The statement is reproduced below :-

“It is reported in the press that Karnataka Govt. had omitted the names of Chandrashekar Azad and Bhagat Singh from the book for Social Science in Chapter 11 on ‘Struggle for Freedom – II Phase’ in the schools at Karnataka. A justification has been given by Mr. S. Settar, visiting Professor of National Institute of Advanced Studies that these deletions were done “so as not to project controversial characters at the class VII level”. This thinking is atrocious and unforgivable.

I am shocked that the lives of Chandrashekar Azad and Bhagat Singh the icons of freedom struggle could be considered controversial by any Indian. Their acts of bravery and commitment to the freedom struggle to the extent of laying down their lives voluntarily for freedom struggle were the inspiration on which people of our generation and our children have been brought up. That there should be some persons who consider these two top most patriots as controversial character boggles one’s imagination. I am surprised that such persons can remain associated with teaching history in Karnataka State. The Karnataka Government should immediately tender unqualified public apology for this gratuitous insult to the pillars of freedom struggle. Teaching of



their lives must be restored in the history books immediately - this would be the penance of Karnataka Govt..."

No reply came for months and I was obviously seething with anger and thinking as to what further steps to take when, thanfkully, a letter came from the Govt. of Karnataka informing me that the lives of Chandrashekar Azad and Bhagat Singh have been restored in the textbooks.

## **GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**

No. Education 182 DGO 2004

Karnataka Government  
Secretariat  
Multi Storied Building,  
Bangalore, Dt. 4.7.2005

From :

Principal Secretary to Government,  
Primary and Secondary Education,  
Bangalore.

To :

Sri Rajindar Sachar,  
Chief Justice (Retd.)  
A - 19, New Friends Colony,  
New Delhi - 110 065

Sir,

Sub : Regarding the omission of the name of Sri Chandrashekar Azad and Sri Bhagat Singh from the textbook of Social Science of 7<sup>th</sup> Standard of Karnataka Govt.

Ref : Your letter dated 25.9.2004

I am directed to State that the teaching of patriotic lives of Sri Chandrashekar Azad and Sri Bhagat Singh in the school text books of 7<sup>th</sup> standard of Karnataka State has been restored in the 7<sup>th</sup> standard Social Science text books for the Academic year i.e. 2005-06..."



So far so good. But what has left a scar is how could any political leader, be so ignorant of one of our most striking example of patriotism and fearlessness.

The parliament which should normally invoke awe and respect has become a laughing stock with every day walk outs on the flimsy grounds are routine – but yet the members still not having the moral courage to not at least accept sitting fees for the days of walk-out, (excepting of course in the case of Mr. Kuldip Nayar, the columnist and former MP who specifically wrote to the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha that he will not draw any daily allowance for the days that there was a walk out even though it was a walk out and House did not sit, not at his instance but at the instance of the other parties. He put this request in practice by not drawing any allowance.) At one time, the public outcry was to make this into a parliamentary decision but unfortunately the Members of Parliament themselves refused to accept this proper and morally sound suggestion. Rather, the response has been to ask for a very big and hefty raise in their emoluments (I am not saying whether they are justified or how they compare with other countries vis-a-vis our poor economy). All that I am saying is that in order to install faith in the people, is it not an issue which should publicly be debated so that people can give their views and if there is genuine and legitimate requirement for increasing the perks of MLAs and MPs it could be done only after the views of the public debate has been ascertained so that it is done in a transparent manner. How do you expect the youth to retain morale if they find that for political considerations the most corrupt civil servant is given the highest of civil service posts, even by superceding many able civil servants.

I feel that one of the crucial fact if we want our youth to have faith in the moral values is our political system. It cannot be denied that somehow our break-up with feudalism is not complete. Power of authority and seats of power in politics are still somehow placed higher than excellence in other fields. We



have to accept that our society does not give that respect to intellectuals, academicians and social scientists and, though they are truly committed to the welfare of the nation. The average man and the youth takes its bench-mark from the way even small time politicians are fielded and given more respect against the intellectuals and leaders of non-governmental functionaries.

It is the sensitization of the society to correct morals in public life that is important if we wish the youth to join the mainstream. The fact that youth unfortunately is more interested in consumerism and day-to-day existence is shown from the fall in the readership of the books as many of the book publishers have lamented. It may be that many of the youths are reading but what they are reading is not classical novels or serious books on political philosophy or economic literature but quickies dealing more with petty matters but not much on social context in the books.

This is because it somehow seems to be accepted in the society that it is the measure of a person's success whether he can make enormous money or somehow get a high political office—let me illustrate — this is without in any way meaning any disrespect or in any way lessening the position of one of our greatest philosophers Dr. S. Radhakrishnan whom I consider as one of the greatest intellectual of our generation. But the fact that he accepted first the Ambassadorship, the Vice-President-ship of the country, and then later on the Presidentship was an indication of the feudal mindset which imagined that the political office was recognition of his intellectual stature. Now, Dr. Radhakrishnan did not need these offices to give fame and recognition to him. As a matter of fact, he was already enjoying the highest respect and reverence even from the international community of intellectuals decades earlier. C.E.M. Joad, the great British philosopher described in a beautiful way when Dr. Radhakrishnan went to deliver a speech at the Oxford University. Joad was hearing Dr. Radhakrishnan for the first time. Later on



he described it thus 'Then arose a short man dressed in his local dress and when he spoke, if you closed your eyes, you felt it was an Oxford Don speaking and with ease pearls of wisdom. There is no doubt that it was Dr. Radhakrishnan who lent a prestige and honour to the office of Presidentship, rather the other way – but unfortunately the superiority of political prominence at the cost of academic and intellectual genius, sent a wrong signal to the youth as to what should be their first priority. In England and France, no one doubted the genius, commitment to public cause of Bertrand Russell or the great writer Sartre because they did not hold any political office.

So, the charm of politics continues. That might not have been such a bad thing (for after all in a democracy politics has to play a significant part. But the trouble arises when politics is not an instrument for public welfare but for private gain. This is becoming clear when we read credible though distressing true stories of corruption, criminality and self-gain amongst our present politicians. As a test, a recent analysis by a reputed NGO has found that all parties, including from those of left parties have fielded candidates in recently held Bihar elections who are facing criminal charges of murder, dacoity, extortion from 33% to one party of 100%. It may be that these persons have not been convicted (but then they would automatically have been ineligible). But the question to be asked is should parties give a serious thought even before thinking of fielding such candidates, and thus pollute the source of public life.

Is it any wonder that the so-called people's representative continue to be indifferent even to the exhortation of Mr. Som Nath Chatterjee the present speaker of the Lok Sabha who, while delivering Bhim Sen Sachar Memorial Lecture said "Large sections of the people are greatly worried about the nexus between crime and politics as well as administration in the country. I am saddened to observe that politics in the country has to a large extent, become criminalized and crime has become politicized."



In the past, criminalization of politics was a big national concern. But now, the situation has changed. It is politicization of criminals that is taking place.

In the past, unscrupulous politicians made use of criminals for their ends, but now criminals themselves are turning politicians. Criminals and murderers become MLAs, MPs and Ministers.

The end of Lallu's misrule is being greeted with hope that a new era of public service may begin. But how disgusting and demoralizing is the situation where we find newly elected MLA of Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar alliance behaving like goons and small time thieves breaking into Government bungalows, like a small dacoit raiding party distributing spoils amongst themselves. The conduct is hardly like to inspire youth for public good. I should have thought that these workers would have rushed to their constituencies to evaluate the immediate needs of the poor – but then it is again being established that unfortunately as a class politics has become big business than a public service.

The tolerant response of Nitish Kumar was misplaced. If he cannot exercise leadership at the height of his glory and wield a whiplash on this disgraceful conduct, voters will start wondering whether it was worth displacing Lallu Yadav (with some clout at the Centre) with equally nauseating grapping rabble of legislators.

Situation is so demoralizing that MLAs and even sitting Member in a State Assembly, is not served a non-bailable warrant issued by the court on the specious ground that the person concerned is not available. Such effrontery and disregard for law may well justify some one to ask whether we are governed by rule of law. Because if politician can disregard the law with impunity, why would the rest of moneyed people not use their clout and then surely the whole atmosphere would be vitiated.

The youth is also demoralized when he finds a gap in the words and deeds of the present day politicians. Though strong



pronouncements by all the political parties that there is need of a Lok Pal and for which Bill has been pending since 1968 but the Parliament has not chosen to pass this Law because the Bill if passed will cover the cases of misconduct and malfeasants of the legislators also which evidently they are not willing to allow to happen.

This situation has caused great disappointment amongst people. In this context, number of Gandhites and social activists of Lok Sevak Sangh and of Lajpat Bhavan, are threatening to observe hunger strike. Amongst all of them are in the age group of 70s, 80s, and 90s. This dedicated batch have resolved that if Lok Pal Act is not passed by the next winter session of Parliament it may force them to fast unto death. It is unfortunate that both Govt. and media should have chosen to ignore such an important event, concerning the priority to fight corruption.

Recently, the Speaker has gone public and pointed out that there is a great misuse of the legislator's discretionary fund of Rs. 2 crores each of MPs and similarly of large number of the same schemes which are not prevalent, in other legislature including municipalities. Such misuse of funds has now become a matter of great concern in public debate but yet the legislators' arrogance and smugness are continuing to ignore it. They are at a stage where they need to be reminded of the injunction of Oliver Cromwell in 1650 to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland : "I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible you may be mistaken." No one amongst the politicians is willing to do so, and the cynicism continues.

In the biography of Prime Minister of England, Lord Palmerson by Ashley, what is expected of a Minister is stated thus "that the most elementary qualification demanded of a minister is honesty and incorruptibility. It is, however necessary not only that he should possess this qualification but also that he should appear to possess it." Can one blame the youth for their cynicism and scoffing at the system which permeates tainted minister accused of bribe and of murder which are



pending in court of law to continue in the Governments on the specious plea that they are not yet been proved guilty. Similarly, it has been constantly said and accepted by judiciary that it is essential not only that justice be done but it should appear to be done. Should not the same standard apply to the politicians that at least it should be incumbent upon any minister to step down if any charge of misconduct or corruption are pending in a court of law. This may some time work hardship on an individual who may ultimately find charges not to be proved but in the larger context of keeping people's faith in democracy and clean politics is such a small and correct conduct not called for especially if one wishes to keep the faith of the youth in the future of the country.

In this connection, Ivor Jennings in his book "Cabinet Govt." says "That the most elementary qualification demanded of a minister is honesty and incorruptibility. It is, however, necessary not only that he should possess this qualification but also that he should appear to possess it".

Members of All India Services like IAS and IPS are liable to be suspended even when the Govt. contemplates taking disciplinary proceedings. If such is the rule in all other spheres to take action at the preliminary State, but what logic can a minister be allowed to continue in spite of fact that a Court has after hearing detailed arguments from the concerned minister come to a prima facie view and has framed charges of corruption against the minister.

What is so special about legislators that while the highest in executive and judiciary are expected to resign even without a formal conviction, but the minister should claim the status of absolute irremovable monarch and free to indulge in corruption and nepotism. I thought we had left behind the era of King Louis XIV of France, who proclaimed "I am the State" which presumptuous remarks led to the end of his dynasty and guillotine.

Membership of Parliament is a great honour and carries with it a special duty to maintain the highest standards of



probity. Immunity from dismissal even when prima facie corruption charges are framed by a criminal Court (like in Laloo case) would in the words of Lord Salmon lend to “charter for corruption” so to elevate Members of Parliament as “super-citizens, immune from criminal responsibility”. Such a situation is untenable in republican country like ours.

A living democracy survives on the acceptance of the immutable principle that people are the real sovereign – the elected legislators merely the instrument of the people to carry on day-to-day work. Any other concept is unacceptable in a society governed by Indian Constitution. As John Adams (USA) said “The people have a right, an inalienable, indisputable, indefeasible, divine right to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge – I mean of the character and conduct of their Rulers.”

Jai Prakash Narain (J.P.) in his own forthright and frank manner put it more stringently thus “I know politics is not for saints. I am no saint myself presuming to preach a sermon to others. But policies, at least under a democracy, must know the limits which it may not cross. Otherwise, if there is dishonesty, corruption, manipulation of the masses, naked struggle for personal power and personal gain, there can be no socialism, no justice, not freedom, no national unity, in short, no nation.”

The situation is certainly alarming. Institutions which are the core and foundation of rule of law have no doubt become atrophied. But then one cannot fold up ones hand in despair and pray for some avatars to get us out of the present quagmire. In any case, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> centuries have been kept out of their schedule by avatars.

As Johan W. Gardner says “I, social, economic and political. And for this you do not require an army of people, institutions don’t overhaul themselves. They find it painful. When an institution is in need of renewal, someone must shake it up. In the case of political institutions, the shake up must come from concerned citizens determined to create responsive

government, determined to bring the parties to life, determined to cut through organizational dry rot and revitalize ageing institutions.”

We must not despair that consumerism or short gain have become the symbol of the young generation. There are still equally concerned and large number in the young generation do make strenuous efforts to redeem the pledge taken in our Constitution of giving to the common people, justice – social, economic and political. And for this you do not require an army of people. As put it pithily by the greatest of fighter of people’ power. Mahatma Gandhi who said “A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”

Let me end with the ringing words of Swami Vivekananda: “So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them.” Is the young generation listening?

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# ALIENATION OF YOUTH OF KASHMIR FROM THE MAINSTREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

M.M. Khajooria IPS\*

“Every child born into this world brings a message from God that He is not yet discouraged from the man.” Said the sage, Robinder Nath Tagore. This was not only reassuring but also debunked the pedestrian perception that every new generation was in normal course prone to degeneration. In reality, every generation was endowed with the experience and wisdom of its ancestors plus their own share of intellect driven vision and capability. No wonder, our children and grand children handle computers and almost naturally get on with fast developing technology. Many in earlier generations, on the other hand, were foxed by fantastic strides in these critical fields. Even a casual comparative study of the existing syllabus of primary classes and that prescribed three decades ago would establish not only the yawning gap between the two but also the great leap forward. For instance, a fourth class student today was taught Fundamental Rights enshrined in our constitution. They recited with ease not only the rights but were quite inquisitive about how s’ and why’s of the provision in the constitution. Many graduates of yester years may be found at sea if questioned about the subject. The present generation, on the strength of spiritual as well as genetic evidence, was inherently an improvement on its predecessors. Yet, a sizeable section of our youth had fallen prey to patently irrational temptation of straying away from the mainstream. Why?

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The mindset of an individual as well as a generation was primarily conditioned by the dominant value system, developmental climate, cultural ethos and prevailing socio-political environment. Home, school and society were the three main institutions that significantly impacted the minds and behavioral patterns of citizens especially the young and the impressionable. Happily, in the case of our State all the above ingredients were positively oriented and institutions solidly supportive. This should have ensured that the strengthening and not the weakening of bonding with the national main stream. The commitment to the tripod of democracy, secularism and social justice on which the national polity was mounted should consequently be stout enough to with stand all negative pulls and pushes. But what actually happened was to the contrary. When the time of test came, the faith of a sizeable section of our youth indeed that of the people proved merely skin deep. It faltered at the very first concerted attack by religious fundamentalists and anti-nationals. The community as a whole just beat a hasty retreat leaving the field open to the noisy vicious but determined minority who wasted no time in claiming the mantel of leadership. The commitment to time honored values, hallowed traditions and composite culture proved too weak to with stand the onslaught of communal and divisive forces, the ideological degeneration and enhanced vulnerability could be attributed to apathy of political and religious leadership. They failed to anticipate and counter the stunning blows struck by the preachers of the fundamentalist interpretation of the great religion of Islam. The faith of Kashmiri Muslims in philosophy and practices of Sufi Islam was not harnessed to counter the fundamentalist thrust. The absence of any worthwhile response of the State and the civil society also facilitated corruption of the centuries old ways of life and worship. The systems that sustained these just collapsed. The institutions were fractured and polluted.

The Indian political elite and the union governments were squarely responsible for creating environment of alienation of



the youth. Pakistan keenly and intimately monitored the developments cleverly provided the necessary pushes and pulls and at the appropriate moment pulled the rug from under their feet. Some of the factors that contributed significantly to the derailing of the youth may be summarized as follows :-

### **National Policy**

The main thrust of the Kashmir policy perused by New Delhi had all along been to prop up and support political leaders and parties willing to do their biddings. In their quest for complaint allies, they hired and fired political 'subedars' in highly erratic and ham handed manner. The sack of Sheikh Abdullah in 1953 forced a very difficult choice before the leadership and cadres of National Conference. They had to choose between the leader whom they literally worshipped and what was projected as the national interest. The Sheikh was accused of hobnobbing with foreign powers with the sole aim of becoming a hereditary sultan. The history had yet to give its verdict on the veracity of this accusation. Bakshi Ghulam Mohd, Sadiq their colleagues and a majority of National Conference workers had to make a very difficult choice. They opted to support the national cause and parted company with their Quaid-i-Aazim. They had successfully fought the plebiscite front storm troopers for over two decades. And then in a sudden move the Sheikh was brought back and enthroned after 22 years in wilderness. The villain had turned a hero. Those who had sided with the national leadership were left in the lurch. The new regime did not waste much time and the vendetta was soon running full blast against the 'loyalists' of yesteryears. Their frustration and resentment was natural as they were unable to comprehend their crime. The Indira-Abdullah accord, on the other hand failed to assuage the hurt feelings of Sheikh Abdullah and his supporters who had suffered victimization. They continued to nurse their grievances and itch for revenge. Apparently, those who engineered the accord did not reckon the views and sentiments of people of the State especially the youth as relevant factors. They chose to ignore the fact that for



two long decades and more the youth were either led to believe that Sheikh Abdullah and his adherents were anti-national or were fed on anti-India staple diet. Friends and comrades were sacrificed at the altar of expediency. The emphasis shifted on July 1986. Dr. Farooq Abdullah was alleged to have prompted his young followers to cross over to POK for obtaining training to fight the Indians. With the kind of treatment meted out to political heavyweights, grass root workers and the educated and politically conscious youth, why should anyone now show bewilderment at their unwillingness to mount the mainstream band wagon?

### **Subversion of Religious Ethos**

Kashmir was the land of Sufis and Rishis. The synthesis of Sufism and the mystical Shivaism propounded by Lal Ded and Sheikh Noor Din Noorani ruled the hearts and minds of the people and the sovereign alike right from the days of Zain-ul-abideen, the Bud Shah (1420-1470 AC). The composite faith overshadowed the religious divide. "One who pride himself in his caste is bereft of reason and wisdom. In this world only the good can claim true noble descent, and in the hereafter caste has no meaning. Were you to understand Islam truly, you would never boast about your caste. What use is there in priding yourself in your caste? For, when death overtakes you, your bones will be ground to dust" so preached the Sheikh Noor Din Noorani Patron saint of Kashmir. And Lal Ded, the naked mendicant, oblivious of any material attachment sang :

"Shiv Chuy Thali Thalirozan  
Mo Zan Hindi Ta Musalman  
Truk Ay Chuk Pan Panun Parzanav  
So Chay Sahib As Sati Zany Zan.

(Shiva is omnipresent; do not segregate Hindu from Musalman. Utilize your senses for self-recognition; that is the true path to reach God).

Their message of universal love was deeply ingrained into the psyche of Kashmiris. This firmly denied any space to religious



Govt. of J&K  
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fanaticism and social discrimination and gave birth to a set of beliefs in the unity of mankind and love for all irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Both the followers of Islam and worshipers of Lord Shiva sing hymns in the praise, follow their teachings, and pray at their Shrines. Nund Rishi to Hindus became Noor Din Wali to Muslims and Lad Ded became Lal Arifa to Muslims. With the passage of time these philosophical and ideological strands were woven into a fascinating multi-colored socio-political and cultural fabric called – the Kashmiryat. Here was the bulwark of Kashmir's accession with India; the strongest and most enduring bond. Pakistan realized this and worked to subvert the Sufi Islam with the help of the fundamentalist Whabbi cult. As they dare not openly mount a frontal attack, the 'Whabbis' under the leadership of Jamaat-i-Islaami resorted to deceit and low-key subversion. The party was fully backed by the Pak ISI in this pernicious project. And the congress Government under Syed Mir Qasim committed the unpardonable sin of promoting the Jamaat with a view to weaken the position of Sheikh Abdullah amongst the Muslim masses. A typical instance of "cutting ones 'nose to spite the neighbor." Sheikh Abdullah committed the similar blunder when he interceded to protect the adherents of the Jammat on the intervention of the King of Saudi Arabia. The Jaamat cadres had been hounded out by the people and their properties burnt following Bhutto's political execution in Pakistan. He could legitimately be accused of creating circumstances for the Whabbi cult to bounce back on the Kashmir scene there by enabling them to infect the Kashmiri Muslim youth with ideas and practices subversive of the teachings of Sufi saints. They fully utilized the opportunity and assiduously worked to enforce the fundamentalist and obscurantist interpretation of Islam with a view to demolish the centuries old composite liberal value system. The people were sought to be terrorized in the submission through most barbaric and brutal and horrifying killings. The local terrorist agents and their over ground counterparts fomented and enhanced alienation against India, Infiltrated the



State apparatus, discredited the democratic and secular institutions and did every thing possible to bring 'India and the Government of India' to disrepute. The cleansing of ethnic and religious minorities, killings of opposition political leadership and communalization of the civil society were high on their agenda. They successfully squeezed the Kashmiri Pandit minority from the valley. The terror sustained and accelerated from across the border / LOC was aimed at ensuring that the people of J&K were unable to objectively, dispassionately and fearlessly even consider much less exercise of their political options.

### **Fear Psychosis**

Threats fallowed by selective killings, large scale bombing and chain of successes against the forces of the State in the initial stage helped the militants to unleash a reign of terror. This resulted in creating a situation where even expression of dissent became impossible. They alone called the shots. The bluff of the politicians who public-ally blustered but privately cringed understandably carried no conviction. The fear stalked the unhappy valley with predictable consequence of establishing supremacy of the vocal minority over the silent majority.

### **Loss of faith in Electoral processes**

The post-independence history of elections in J&K was replete with uncontested returns, boycotts and riggings of varying intensities, shapes and sizes. The manipulation of electoral process was widely believed to have been rampant. It had been perfected into a fine art by an unholy axis between a section of the politicians and administrators. The press and the public alike seriously doubted the veracity of the electoral verdicts. The proverbial last straw allegedly came in 1987 elections. The rigging was alleged to be massive and blatant. The reaction was this time strongest because the youth had participated in these elections with high hopes. which were shattered. The stage was thus set for the bullet to follow the failure of the ballot. The public perceived India, the patron State as responsible for the "murder of democracy in Kashmir".



## **Corruption**

Corruption, obviously had lot to do with level of citizen dissatisfaction and grouses against the State. But in the context of alienation of youth from the mainstream, its play in employment and selection for higher education sectors was most relevant. Historically, corruption entered in these sensitive and critical fields in a big way after 1977. The neglect of merit in selections for jobs and seats in professional institutions of higher learning for dubious consideration and not the lack of employment and higher education opportunities turned the youth away from the mainstream. Here again the ire of the youth was successfully turned against India, by the Pakistan propaganda machine and her indigenous agents.

## **Remedies**

Having identified the causes for alienation of the Kashmiri youth from the national mainstream, appropriate and stringent corrective measures were called for. The political sights needed to be reset, system disabilities cured, economic and developmental strategies restructured and adherence to norms of absolute integrity insisted upon. In short, political morality should prevail over expediency and a new era of responsible, responsive and transparent governance ushered in.

A comprehensive, coherent and focused national policy needed to be conceptualized and operationalised by the Government of India in which the political class as a whole and the civil society must be fully involved. The aim should be to win back the hearts and minds of our youth. This should aim at building, sustaining and enhancing participation of the youth in the exciting and remunerative tasks of development and economic prosperity. It must be tuned to equip them with tools, knowledge and skills necessary for achieving excellence in the fields of science, technology and economic enterprise – attributes that enable them to assume the leadership role. Does the necessary/ social, economic and political environment exist in which the vast majority of our youth could aspire to operate and advance unfettered and unhindered?

The harsh reality is that challenges of a highly competitive globalised and fast expanding economy can hardly be met by a predominantly agriculturist country, vast majority of whose peasantry were still bonded to antique agricultural practices. Moreover, our most precious human resource was plagued with a largely out dated and outmoded educational system, endemic unemployment and institutions and systems that blocked talent, debilitated enterprise and thwarted initiative. These roadblocks to progress and prosperity have to be demolished. Systems had to be engineered and infrastructure put in place for producing world-class leaders in various fields of human activity. The task though stupendous was not beyond the genius of the Indian nation.

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# THE YOUTH OF OUR TIME

**Lt. Gen (Retd) HC Datta\***

The present generation of youth is different from that of our time. Every generation is different from the preceding one. The latter finds it unsettling though it is a known fact that change is inevitable. In fact it is mostly for the good. This is how mankind has evolved through centuries. History of progress or collapse of societies and nations has been determined by their capacity to adapt to changing circumstances and as to how effectively they mutated in terms of new inventions, improved practices and how well did they absorb new ideas. Change also mostly impacts on the younger generations. They bear the brunt of it and ultimately they are the ones to take up forward thinking. So, the quality of youth in a society at any given times, is a defining factor.

It will be logical to begin by recognizing the negative features prevalent among some of our youth, so as to see as to what should be done by us and by the society as a whole to set them on the right path. The situation has to be different in various parts of the country, but the often heard complaint is that the young of today lack moral fibre, seek a life of ease, shun hard work, are ever ready to cut corners, have no sense of responsibility, have forgotten old values, live only for themselves. The western influence, specially the bad part of it, has corrupted them and there is total sellout to the cell phone and hop culture. To complicate matters further, economic well being in the big cities, the PBO and Call Center bonanza has put large sums of money in the hands of young boys and girls. Not all have the maturity to avoid going berserk and flaunting norms of behaviour and responsibility.

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What is our concept of 'good' youth? One way is to group traits in two categories, i.e. qualities required for meeting new challenges, and the qualities of a basic nature. In other words the 'adaptive' qualities and the 'constant' or basic virtues. There is not much controversy about the perennial values. We know the virtues of moral character, courage, loyalty, industry, sense of duty and responsibility to other (specially to the old!!) and society. To this we add wisdom, maturity, stability, money management, good parenting and to be a well adjusted personality and what we call, a decent human being. The list is endless and there are any number of views as to how to inculcate these qualities and whose responsibility it is to impart them. I am of the view that the prime responsibility is that of parents, indeed it is an essential part of parenting. How do you do it. Not by endless harangues, lectures and frequent shouting matches, this method is totally counter productive. The only way to teach is by personal example. Hence young people of a family very often resemble their parents and the elders. In sum, we can say that in sphere of basic qualities, the blame lies on the parents and not on the young boys and girls. We should also lay emphasis on this aspect in our schools and colleges, but there should also be a drive to 'educate' the older lot and they should be taught that the young are watching us at all times and every time we do something dishonest or cut corners, we are conveying a wrong message to impressionable minds.

I think we have reached a point of crisis with regard to character and moral qualities. Reasons are not far to seek. There is rampant corruption at all levels and it is getting worse. The parallel (black) economy is thriving blatantly and degree of violence in the society is frightening. Religious bigotry is becoming endemic. To further confound and confuse the young we have very unsavoury TV programmes and movies and the youth is continuously exposed to gore, sleaze and outright pornography. How can we expect our youth to remain unaffected by these evils. These are very complex issues which



cannot be resolved overnight but all segments of the society must address them and do whatever is possible at all levels.

At the individual level effort should be to inculcate discipline or rather self-discipline and the young must be taught rule of law and to observe rules at all times. Discipline and observance of rules means doing the right thing even when not watched. Those of us who have had the opportunity to visit western countries learn that these two aspects alone account for their progress and prosperity to a large extent. Heedless consumerism is a recent phenomenon which needs to be curbed and we have to take our young back to old world values of thrift—level of savings in a country is important for economic progress. Value of hard work and perseverance must be emphasized. Parents, elders, teachers and leaders, all have the responsibility to promote the concept of a healthy mind in a healthy body. Hence outdoor activity and sports must be encouraged. It has been my experience that once the young boys and girls are exposed to nature and healthy out door activities such as hiking, mountainering, sailing, fishing and such like adventure sports, they are never the same again and almost always become better individuals. Again, the value of sports for character building and imparting leadership qualities is a proven concept. In this respect, NCC training scorit guide activities and enrolment in TA have proved extremely useful. Indeed we should seriously consider introducing a system of compulsory military training or a kind of national service in the country.

The 'adaptive' qualities are a much complex subject but here again, responsibilities of the grown people or leaders and parents are immense, for they are and should be far more able to adjudge new trends and tools of modern life. Indeed in this respect the requirement for wise parental guidance and correct national policies is truly paramount. The world is changing very rapidly alround, in spheres of electronics, communications, commerce, space technology, biolechnology, stem cell research, gene therapy, nanotechnolgy at al. whole new fields of study



and employment opportunities are opening by the day. The youth are often confused and hence frustrated by mind boggling advances. Frustration leads to negative behaviour. There has been a sea change in the gender scene and the girls have emerged as an important and equal part of our society, making it necessary for both sexes to learn new skills and mores for interrelationship both at home and at work. The movies and visual media has made things more difficult. In short, the pressures on our youth have multiplied manifold. Youth should be encouraged to read widely and make a habit of keeping abreast with developments in the wide world. Fortunately, the marvels of electronics and internet and TV have all contracted the world and it has become eminently possible for a boy even in a village to be aware of what is happening abroad. Again, it is a matter of correct guidance and proper channeling of their energies. Rural and urban unemployment is a major multifaceted problem which accounts for great deal of bad behaviour. However it is really a symptom rather than the disease in as much as better economic policies and vocation oriented education will certainly enhance employment opportunities.

How do we ensure that youth responds to new ideas in a judicious and selective manner? Obviously by a major restructuring of the educational system and a meaningful drive for career counseling regarding newly emerging directions. Our academicians should come out with a new look education apparatus. Our system of formal education, structured by the British hundreds of years ago continues more or less unchanged whereas in the western world itself the systems have undergone vast changes. There has to be wholesale shift to technical and scientific subjects and a vocational orientation. Education and training of our youth should be the priority focus area of the State and a matter of deliberate policy. The electronic revolution and outsourcing bonanza is a case in point—it came about largely as a chance product of private business initiatives of young boys and girl and of course the base of English language. This



is in fact an example of how the government should have foreseen and forecast the requirement rather than it about by chance. Advanced countries have a system in place to formulate labour and employment policies for future years based on assessments of future trends and openings. This is a highly technical area and it calls for vast expertise and resources which should be the concern of the Government, the business community and the universities alike.

I have always maintained that every young person wants to make good and wants to succeed in life and the stereotype of the aimless and good for nothing youth goofing off is a myth propagated by frustrated parents and the so called do gooder sociologists. It is basically a matter of correct guidance, proper opportunity and forward thinking on the part of leaders, parents and specially the State.

The situation in the State of J&K is entirely different. There the youth are restless, rootless and prone to violence owing to a vicious and misguided political movement fostered, aided and abetted externally. In a way it is a patent example of a senile and short sighted older generation playing havoc with the psyche and future prospects of the younger generation. The youth has been deprived of proper education and in fact a whole generation has grown with minds full of ignorance and poison. Fortunately there are some signs of hope in as much as the tourism and allied service industries are opening up which is bound to enhance employment opportunities. It is possible that like it happened in Ireland, in J&K too, the fires of senseless terrorism and violence may be ultimately doused by economic prosperity. If and when that does happen, the youth of the region will undoubtedly rise to a constructive part in the well being of the State.

To conclude, we do not have bad youth, we have bad elders and an inefficient system and a Government which is functioning below par. The parents and elders mean well but they are either too busy eking out a living or coping with their

own problems. The schools, colleges and universities are understaffed and mired in an outdated mindset. The business community and manufacturing industry is self centered and only interested in making fast profits. Political leadership is beset by problems of their own and of their own making. No wonder the youth is confused and often breaks out into unruly and irresponsible behaviour. Moral of the story is that we cannot expect the youth to perform at their best unless the entire society performs at its best and unless the country creates the right conditions. India can boast a vast reservoir of intelligent and educated young people who have a tremendous potential for the advancement of the country. They have the potential to do well for themselves and create enormous wealth for the nation. Instead, they are being converted into a problem through mishandling and lack of proper guidance and opportunity.

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# DERAILMENT OF YOUTH FROM THE MAINSTREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Manoj Dvivedi IAS \*

The world today is witnessing a more frenetic activity and change than ever seen before, which is true for almost all spheres, be it economic, political, social and even cultural. Any country's, development and reputation it has in the international front is determined by the living standards of the people of that country, which in turn can be measured by using a number of socio-economic indicators. These indicators if they are to reach an ideal behavior, require that the youth of that nation, have capacity and capability, adherence to the soul of the country's aspirations and above all, a vision to transform their nation from the level it is, to a "higher" level of development.

However, to talk just off outputs and not about inputs would not only be out of place, but also unfair to the youths. No doubt, the youths of today have a greater responsibility to transform their nation, then ever before, given the scale of socio-economic changes happening all around the world which "globalization" has brought but if correct inputs are not forthcoming the chances of their 'derailment from the mainstream' are also on an all time high. Are these fears justified?

The answer is "yes" if a particular socio-political system does not take into account 3 equally humane concerns – the dignity of the youth, their empowerment and finally their emancipation.

The present swing of "globalization" is bringing rapid changes in the socio-economic, cultural and political sphere of all nation-states. But are we not depending too much on

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“market fundamentalism”, the insane notion that the invisible hand of the market is cure for all ills has caused more damage to our youth today than in the last two decades by any other philosophy. Indeed ‘Market fundamentalism’ has created growing array of recruits for other sorts of fundamentalism like that of religious fundamentalism.

As mentioned above, this has per say, caused a very great damage to the mainstream of the nations in general and youth in particular.

Values, Morals, Idealism and Faith in the system of country are gradually getting eroded.

There is a dearth of idealism and lack of faith in the system which is becoming a major cause of frustration amongst the youth today. Not surprisingly, life has started to appear totally ‘meaningless’ to the today’s youth, who have either become too scared of the world or are in a State of perplex given the heavy stimuli from diverse channels. This frustration often converts into different forms of aggression, which in turn is reflected by the declining faith in the system.

A few key words need to be understood. They are “faith”, “idealism” and “system”. Actually when we define mainstream it is a synthesis of these three key words, when we all have a reliable system that caters to expectations and needs of people in a society we have collective faith in the system. Adhering to this faith and norms of this system is defined as idealism. And this idealism is the mainstream politics, mainstream religion, mainstream culture, mainstream schools of thoughts or whatever but the essence is basically the compliance to a set of norms, collectively accepted by the society, state or country that we all live in, such collective acceptance of norms at international level across the boundaries of the countries would be the mainstream ‘international principles’ of conference-existence. Objective is conference-existence of all, benefiting all and inspiring all. Where there is inspiration there is idealism. Where there is idealism there is no depression in all spheres of existence



we have a win-win situation devoid of aggression of any kind. This is perfect system or the so called mainstream.

Let us look at the essentials of this mainstream. It should be sustainable. It should be inspiring. It should be adaptable and it should be full of choices. When primarily these aspects are taken care of by the system all have to be part of the system i.e. stick to the mainstream. The moment these features start getting bleak the deviations become evident. 'Youth' who symbolizes knowledge is the first to get derailed. Once derailed from mainstream, it is indeed difficult to get them back. Usually we address the symptoms but remedy lies in the roots. Since youth has the energy par excellence, excellent systems are required to tap this energy to achieve the best out of their potentials. For that it is required that they contribute to the system i.e. stay within the mainstream. But somewhere when our system fails to inspire, fails to provide ample choices to our youth and makes it difficult for them to adapt to this system then obviously our youth loses faith in the system. Subsequently they leave the mainstream and start looking out for alternatives. These alternatives are usually destructive and thrive on the depression of the youth and exploit their aggression. Youths have been trying options of terrorism, naxalism, mafia-world, drug trafficking or on relatively softer side strikes, criminal politics, and indiscipline which reflect the deviation from the mainstream. They are trying to find an identity for themselves and all that the system is unable to provide. The reasons they quote are unemployment i.e. lack of choice; corruption, nepotism and systemic failures i.e. lack of inspiration from the existing system; political instability i.e. lack of sustainability in the system they look upto. Finally they cannot cope up and are not roped in constructively. The lack of adaptability derails them taking them away from the mainstream. To get them back we address the symptoms. We want them by force. We want them to believe in 'us'. There is a gap and this unfilled gap, keeps complicating the relationship till things



start reflecting in extreme forms. So remedies lie in addressing the core issues and addressing them well in time. At macro level we can say that these core issues can be addressed firstly with good governance i.e. providing free and fair administration, providing progressive policies, rooting out corruption, spending more on human resource development and opening up one economy to provide more opportunities to the youth. More options, more choices are definitely going to tap energies of our youth better. Then secondly we require leaders of excellence. Men and women of integrity who set a role model for the society. Today in our social fabric right from our habitat level to national level there is a dearth of leaders who can inspire. We need leadership that inspires at all levels. Thirdly, we have to do everything that strengthens our political system, because this is the greatest collective strength of masses of democratic setup. This would require electoral reforms, awareness generation and strengthening of grass root political institution. Fourthly, as we said earlier, youth today symbolise power of 'knowledge'. This knowledge base has to be build up with tremendous opportunities in fields like Information Technology and in world of globalization, steps are required to use media, information revolution, global opportunities to bring development of all kinds. Lastly, we need to redefine religion and other barriers like casteism, apartheid, culture and nationality gaps. Today all these barriers have outlined their utility of improving the mankind. With their aberrations in the forefront they are more a tool of division and hatred leading the world against basic principles of co-existence. Hence we need to create a society with least barriers and re-invent or rather re-discover basic principles of conference existence. This world requires encouraging NGOs, spiritual foundations, Charitable institutions, social groups and other who bring forward a mission of peace and service rising beyond these superficial barriers of caste, religion, color, creed.



At the micro-level small institutions and individuals would be important. Every individual has to work towards involving a superior national character within him. Every individual has to own up a social responsibility and collectively work for a higher cause. Inculcating these values through social awareness, quality education and voluntary efforts of well-meaning institutions / NGOs at grass root level is the need of the time.

To conclude it can be said that unless we collectively create a system that involves our youth with score of opportunities collectively to work towards a vision with missionary zeal we can never achieve the dream of the great thinkers and leaders of all the times – A dream of a civilized, peaceful world full of opportunities to grow in all spheres of existence.

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# DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAINSTREAM - CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Sohan Singh\*

## General

In a recent UN world report India has been included as one of the most poorly managed countries of the world. Parameters employed in this UN study may have been environmental degradation and collapse of ecological balances, deforestation and degradation of forests, disappearing wildlife, soil erosion, floods, drought, and acute shortage of water, on the physical plane. On the social plane corruption, poor quality of life, shortage of everything except human population, mounting pollution, dying cities, poverty, unemployment, overcrowded trains, buses, hospitals, educational institutions, poor state of law and order, violence, crimes, rapes, murders, terrorism, nepotism, favouritism, criminalized politics, scams, are a few items on this long list.

Our youngsters see all this as creation of their oldsters and feel sorry for them and for their failures. They are witness to malpractices in exams, leakage of papers and bribery in the evaluation of answer books and many other crimes being committed on the education plane. They feel highly uncomfortable and restive, dejected and disgusted, frustrated and helpless. They lose their bearing from the normal rhythm of life, get derailed from normal courses of life. Such a state of their mind is a natural consequence of poor physical and social environment created by their elders in which there is nothing for them except purposelessness, meaninglessness and hopelessness. The nation is in a mess.

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Children and youth live in a world not created by them but they are a part of it. A new born baby is divine; it is poet, it is philosopher and it has all the elements which produce pious men, saints, rishis and others of great spiritual attainments. But the divine qualities of the baby gradually die out under the influence of materialism. Only a few retain the Divine in them throughout life. But still children and youth are found superior to elderly men spiritually, morally and intellectually, and if by any means these qualities of the youngsters are preserved and channelised to constructive uses, we will have a better nation. The only means available to us to achieve this end is the moral education.

In Indian culture four types of teachers are recognized to give this kind of education. Mother is the first teacher, father the second, school teacher the third teacher and Satguru, the fourth teacher. Wise and pious mothers are known as nation builders. They teach their offspring indirectly and indiscernibly during their growth in a warm and pleasant environment of homes. There is no match of mother as a teacher. They build the children physically, spiritual and morally and give to the nation a great gift of a disciplined youth.

Father's skill as a family manager, imparts education to the child both directly and indirectly. According to a famous educationist, John Ruskin, the child who has been educated at school only, is to be considered as uneducated. It underlines the importance of home education given by parents.

The third teacher, the school teacher, can affect eternity if he is a competent teacher. This refers to the Gurukul system of education in ancient India in which the student regarded and respected the teacher as his Guru and for this reverence the Guru would give the student all that he (Guru) possessed. This type of education had in it the elements of character building, moral building and self-culture building. Gurukul system of education of ancient India was a gift to the entire mankind of the Earth but sadly, the system started eroding and during the



course of the centuries it eroded almost completely. And now the student-teacher relationships are money-based.

The fourth teacher is Satguru who imparts non-conventional type of education in religion, morals and self-culture through discourses. But now there are not many takers of this type of education although satgurus are still there in the shape of great swamis and acharyas. There is no dearth of them. Jammu City is exceptional. Here we have most brilliant religious discourses every year, jam-packed with men and women and the youth.

In India student power is not utilized. It is going waste and the nation sustains a tremendous loss. Student's contribution in the national economy is zero. In China the student community works as labour force. With all educational institution in China a factory is attached where students work and earn their pocket money and they also contribute materially to the family budget. Long vacations in India leave the students vacant. A vacant mind is devil's workshop. In China vacations are arranged class-wise for shorter periods. These periods are so nicely planned for social services.

A large share of poor governance of our country is chargeable to the incompetent bureaucracy. An illiterate Mughal emperor had originated, evolved and perfected the all-India services which the Britishers had adopted and passed on to the Free India. The name of this emperor was Akbar. The so-called cadres of IAS, IPS; IFS and many others of all India services, have no concept of public service, public servant, public duty and public property. Fault lies in the training of these cadres which marks their incompetence.

The selection boards and commissions are not above board. The government works on the principle of Darwinism which implies fair and unfair struggle for existence and the survival of the fittest. Ours is a welfare State and it is most disgraceful for our government to allow the Law of Jungle in the matter of selections for the public services. Money plays its powerful role. Public services are the foundation of the society and China has a lot to teach us in this regard.



The expression 'mainstream' has to be redefined. The youth and the children make over 55% of our population. And they are superior to elders morally, spiritual and intellectually. The youngsters deserve to be called mainstream of the nation and not oldsters. It is the oldsters that have derailed and not the vice versa. Voting age is very rightly lowered to 18 years.

### **Causes of youth's derailment**

In the general account given above some causes of youth's derailment are hinted. To be more specific, main causes are listed as under :-

1. **Corruption, favouritism and nepotism in the selection for various purposes.** Employment news bulletins are a big fraud. The selection boards/commissions, under the influence of politicians, make selections through backdoor leaving deserving candidates high & dry.
2. The deserving youth cannot compete with those who are capable of doing anything for obtaining higher marks and grades through illegal means. Leakages of papers, reaching out to examiners, even getting false degrees and diplomas are common things.
3. The deserving youth gets demoralized when he sees third raters undergoing medical, engineering and in other professional courses. The rate of suicide among the youth points to these malpractices going on in the broad daylight.
4. As already said above, the youth have higher moral and spiritual levels than men for the reason that they still retain something of their divine childhood. When they see a minister, involved in criminal cases, taking leave from the cabinet and going to jail for a short while and returning to occupy his cabinet birth again, they become furious and lose all purpose of life.
5. Big donations in private professional colleges are beyond the capacity of the poor parents to pay. The deserving candidates get excluded and only undeserving candidates of moneyed parents get entry.



6. Bribery had made all time records. A very recent report published by Times of India, puts it at 21,080 crores of rupees annually paid as bribe by common men. The youth must be revolting in their hearts and souls on this report.
7. In the matrimonies the youth are themselves causes and victims of dowry deals. Later, burning of the brides in their parents-in-laws homes is the most unbearable incidents over which the youth, having conscience, must be bleeding in their hearts. Such crimes are chargeable more to parents than to the youth.
8. Dishonesty in the business and unfair means of trading which generate astronomical amounts of black money, is sapping the vitality of the nation. And the Government leaves the culprits scot free, producing most demoralizing effect of on the youth.
9. Our youth must be feeling grievously hurt over the killings of innocent men, women and children in terrorists strikes in which sometimes entire families are wiped off. The number of widows and orphan children is running into many thousands. The State has failed to protect its citizens who are shot like dogs in the street.
10. The mushroom growth of institutions like private academies, coaching centres and nursing homes, have robbed the parents of their source of livelihood. The Government is a mere spectator over this loot. Health and education are described as most sacred functions of the State, and the State which had failed miserably in discharging this responsibility. As a consequence, the private sector in these two functions, has taken control and is minting money. The youth of the poor families is left behind in the race.

### **Remedies :**

If the causes are clearly understood, the remedies are easier. The wise men say that instead of blaming each other, we should find remedies. It would be easier to reform youth than to improve hardened oldster, and diehards. We have to decide on orientation



of approach, whether the target group should be youngers or oldster or both. It would be an uphill task. Patience and perseverance, trials and errors, direction and momentum of pious men can take us forward. The whole nation is derailed and degenerated and the process of rejuvenation and revitalization should begin from the bottom capitalising the divinity of our children and youth. They will replace elders in a natural course and in a few generations we can find improvement discernibly.

The following measures are suggested to remedy the ailing nation :

1. Moral education should be made an integral part of educational curriculum at all levels - from the primary level to the university level. Separate syllabi should be drawn for primary, middle, high, higher secondary, graduate and post graduate levels. Books on moral education for each level should be prepared, drawing materials from the Vedic knowledge which is secular. To this secular knowledge we can add quotations from modern religions and living faiths in tune with the Vedic knowledge.
2. Our teacher training schools and colleges should be geared up to impart moral instructions, first of all. Any new idea that reaches a teacher, reaches the students also. Let us invest heavily on teachers training and we should also plan periodic, short refresher courses for teachers on moral education.
3. We should never keep students vacant. Vacations should be rescheduled on Chinese pattern, allowing one school on vacation at a time, not closing all educational institutions on long vacation at a time. Since independence, we have been following the present rotten, outmoded, outdated and antiquated system of the British regime.
4. Vacations should be cut to half of the present duration. There is absolutely no justification for long vacations. Rather than decreasing the curricular arrears, we add to them through longer vacations.



5. Again on the Chinese pattern, we should plan how students will spend their vacations. They should be called upon to do some constructive work during vacations - cleaning of village drains, streets, ponds, public places, and collecting the filth and dirt in heaps which the farmers will remove and compost them for excellent manure for their crops. "Village waste is village wealth", so said Mahatma Gandhi. There can be many other engagements for students to spend vacation purposefully and sanctuaries, crops and development works, is no less rewarding. Trekking and outdoor sports, cross-country marches, are equally beneficial.
6. Social evils, to which the students have fallen prey, is a matter of serious concern for parents, teachers, reformers, politicians, administration and governments. Mahatma Gandhi, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Jai Prakash Narayan, Morarji Desi and hundreds of other social workers had devoted their lives to eradicate these evils. Guru Gobind Singh Ji had issued a 'Hukamnama', "My Sikh will not smoke," which reached the Sikh world with the speed of electricity when there was no electricity, no telephone, no telegraph, no rail, no roads and no motor vehicles. This Hukamnama worked wonders and is an effective and relevant today as it was when it had been issued more than 300 years ago. Under its impact the world has today an eco-society of Sikhs numbering 30 million over the world, that does not smoke.
7. For the evils of smoking and drinking we should hold our governments responsible. On a spree of earning revenue, the governments are allowing manufacture of alcohol and cigarettes. Is it not shameful for our governments, the custodians of public health, that they themselves are manufacturing poison for the citizens? We are in the crisis of leadership. There is no statesman in our public affairs, all politicians.



8. On 5 January 2004, our most respected Rashtrapati, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, had administered an Oath to the children at the Indian Science Congress session in Chandigarh that reads as under :

- I will pursue my education with dedication and will excel in it.
- I will teach at least ten persons to read and write who at present cannot do so.
- I will plant at least ten saplings of trees and shall ensure their growth through constant care till they grow beyond damage by cattle.
- I will visit rural and urban areas and permanently wean away at least five persons from addiction and gambling.
- I will not support any communal or language differentiation.

Let us all propose to Dr. Kalam that he should be kind enough to create a portfolio of moral education and run it himself to boost the moral in the children which has died out. During his tenure he should set this most noble precedence which his successors in this highest office of the nation will follow. Government of India shall provide the Rashtrapati all facilities and assistance. He has already touched a million mark in teaching children.

9. Let us all approach our noble Rashtrapati Dr. Kalam to administer yet another oath to the male children that they will not accept dowry when they marry a girl. Likewise, to a female child that she would not marry a boy who demands dowry from her parents.
10. Our youth should remain occupied in social service in their spare time. There are opportunities for them at every step. For instance, Shri Amar Nath Ji Yatra and Mata Vaishnav Devi Yatra, Kumbh Yatras and scores of other Yatras, need their services in providing facilities to yatris. These services should be given recognition by the universities and counted



towards their certificates and degrees. It was done at the time of partition of the country in 1947 and continued for some years. The students had done a magnificent job in providing relief to millions of uprooted people who had suffered most serious hardships and loss of their kins for no fault of their own. Social service should be made a part of every educational curriculum.

11. The youth can get best training in social service in establishments like Radha Swami centres founded all over the country. We have such establishments in Jammu also.
12. The social services of the youth should be availed in natural calamities like floods, earthquakes, cyclones and others.
13. Only social service can divert the energies of the youth to proper constructive channels.
14. Students labour force should be utilized to benefit nation. Chinese methods should be employed and all educational institutions should be provided with factories or just handicraft facilities where the children and youth could work part-time to earn their pocket money and get into the habit of working.
15. Mahatma Gandhi had prepared a simple action plan on student community, as simple as his thoughts. The underlying principle was that the children and the youth must never be left vacant whether at home or in educational institutions. Gandhi ji's philosophy found expression in China while in India it was thrown overboard by our national government. The student community is the largest labour force in our country which we could not employ profitably.
16. NCC training should be made compulsory for all students. This matter had moved sometime back but not heard of any more. Scouts training should be extended to all educational institutions.
17. The methods of Norway and Sweden can help us a lot. In these countries, military training is given to entire student community for three years and then selection for civil



services is made from this trained force, highly disciplined and with clear concept of public service, public servant, public duty and public property.

18. The concept of duty and right are unknown in our national character. Duty first and rights later is the Vedic concept. Our scriptures say rights are a 'prasad' after duty done honestly.

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# OUR YOUTH : AN INTROSPECTIVE ASSESSMENT

Dr. H.L. Sharma\*

It needs no historical data to establish that the youth forms the backbone of any society. Countries engaged in developing processes have taken recourse to arouse the consciousness of their youth potential to accelerate development. As and when inspired the youth everywhere has positively responded to the challenges ahead, India no exception. However, in order to articulate the collective will of youths, the focus ought to be placed in proper perspective and priority in the context of social imperatives; and still more the plans and programmes must be geared to the tunes of urgency consistent with the psyche and sensibility of the youth.

## Alarming Situation

As of now the situation vis-a-vis our youth is no less alarming. As a matter of fact, the whole lot seems to be in a state of bewilderment which is an issue of serious concern. It warrants an introspective appraisal before embarking on its redressal.

During our struggle for freedom the youth of the country played an active role in liberation from the British Rule. He rose as one man to the occasion; accepted the challenge and made sacrifices as and when asked to respond. A few names like those of Bhagat Singh, Chander Shekar Azad, Ram Prasad Bismil, Sukh Dev, Ashfaq-Ullah and Raj Guru have become legends in their own right for their Yeoman's service rendered for the cause of freedom. But to our misfortune the post-independence era records a dismal picture-a picture of gross neglect of the potential of our youths.

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Not only did the leadership fail in harnessing their energies; but also became complacent to provide positive channels to their social urges, aspirations and hitherto cherished goals. Such a neglect or failure, as one may call it, though vicious in form and content, assumes specific significance when one looks into the nature of an irreparable void it has left unattended at all levels of the society.

### **Erosion of Values**

Atleast, virtual dissociation of the youth on the socio-political scenario of the country had manifold repercussions, first, it led to the gradual derailing of the youths from the mainstream of the society. Secondly, non-involvement of this most vibrant section in developmental activities, thickened their sensibility either to act or react as the case may be. Thirdly, their subtle minds were caught into the web of an overall confusion beyond the reach of immediate recovery. However, the worst causality in this regard has been the erosion of the legacy of our moral value bequeathed to the society right through the ages, by our sages and seers. It is painful to note that there being no integrated effort to rebuild some kind of moral code among the youth, the social imbalance, thus created, becomes all the more serious. It is visible in all walks of public behaviour.

### **Collective Consciousness**

In the present context, one may refer to significant observation, made by no less a saint-philosopher than Swami Vivekananda. According to him, the Indian society has been entrusted with a Divine dispensation to perform at the global level. Hence, our value system that we evolved is blessed with a sanatan stamp; the adherence to Dharma. Obviously, any drift or deviation from that path is bound to distort social citadels of thought-pattern accumulated at the conscious as well as sub-conscious level. In retrospect a peep into the annals of global history would testify the truth that the Divine dispensation was well discarded by the socio-spiritual missions



of our land. Coming back home, the light of Dharma righteousness was kept ever above even in the face of crucifying crises. The resurrective endeavours of social stalwarts, embodied in the movement launched by Jagat-Guru Shankar-Acharya, Ramkrishan Parm Hansa, Maharishi Dayanand, Swami Vivekananda, Ramtirth, Mahavir Swami and Mahatama Budha not merely state but speak also, as to what extent, they thought and felt, the intrinsic worth of moral and spiritual value in all matter of life.

### **Pluralistic society**

India is a vast country but its vastness has stood in good stead. It has gifted her a pluralistic society. Its people speak different languages and are different in their diets and dresses. They adhere to diverse religious faiths and yet are tied up together to a sense of "Unity in Diversity". If the pure white snow-clad mountains of Kashmir Valley in the North, moulded their liberal outlook the aesthetic landscapes of the calm sea in the South matured their focus on the severe depth of philosophy. The people of the North East did not lag behind; their contribution to music, art and tantra is no less remarkable. Let me reiterate that an abiding sense of "Unity in Diversity" has sprouted from the commonality of a moral and spiritual ideality forcing different parts into a unified whole. How noble the experience where the diverse parts instinctively move towards the whole to forge themselves into one indivisible unit.

### **Utilitarian Exercise**

Let me categorically state that it is not merely a utilitarian exercise where Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha have been brought under the strict code of moral and spiritual behaviour. Herein also the metaphysical strain and socio-economic moorings have been integrated into a cogent and cohesive philosophy at the functional level. The path of Dharma-righteousness gets precedence and Moksha-oneness with the Absolute, the final Government. The twin mundane entities,



Artha and Kama are kept under the unified command of moral and spiritual regulation. Apparently, the approach may seem complex; yet the way it has been delivering dividends since antiquity, speaks volumes. Its greatest achievement, perhaps, lies in its shaping the subtlety behind the mind into a specific mindset, relevant to and consistent with the immediate and ultimate needs of our social order.

### **Present Scenario**

I have deliberately desisted from orchestrising off the track analysis of the present scenario; nor have I resorted to any partisan churning of political bubble-gums. Suffice it to say that media cameras, reporting from both houses of Parliament furnish enough feedback, highlighting the sham that has begun to suck the very vitals of our society. I have simply confined myself to try an introspective assessment of the youth who is in a state of deep dilemma; dilemma which is not of his own making. His plight becomes all the more catastrophic when one finds that no serious concern has yet been expressed in any quarter whatsoever, either in terms of understanding the nature of youth's agony, confusion and frustration or in finding but appropriate solutions to the problems, he has been made to suffer, ostensibly for no fault on his part.

### **Conclusion**

Irrespective of what our constitutional pandits may prescribe as part of the solution to this vex problem of the youth, it is, essential stem their rot at the earliest. Their growing frustration is fraught with dangerous consequences. Let me forewarn that to find out any solution in terms of economic politics or political economics will tantamount to a mere patchwork solution. Even the schemes such as Employment Guarantee Scheme or a Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, may only touch a fringe of the problem. An enduring solution must emanate from within as to arouse the consciousness of the youth to scale fresh heights of idealism. As a socio-moral

fresh re-orient the whole educational system with special emphasis on moral and spiritual values. Secondly, restore confidence of the youth by ensuring their active participation in all development endeavours. Thirdly, the role of bureaucracy be made accountable to some mechanism beyond the reach of political pulls and pressures.

And lastly, celebrate “Guru-Purnima” day with a view to strengthen the bonds of respect among the teachers, the students and the parents, surely, a “back-to square one” era that saw youth at his best in terms of service and sacrifice—augur well as the most productive and propitious.

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# INDIAN YOUTH ON MARCH

S. Rangil Singh\*

## 1. Introduction :

Youth have been symbolic, throughout the ages and throughout the world, of unbound energy, unshakable enthusiasm, indomitable spirit and above all, insatiable urge for adventure of any type and every type. Wisdom, caution, patience, pretention and perseverance have been the traits and characteristic of old age and old people. The history of man is, in fact, the history of the youth. The history of civilization through all its ages, and through twists and turns during those ages when analysed critically would bring youth—as an individual or as a group or as a conglomerate of groups—to the centre of the drama. It is the youth who is the first peasant, the first artisan, the first artist, the first craftsman and, of course, the first leader and the first warrior. In all the wars fought among groups and nations in uncivilized and then in civilized world, the youth formed the lieutenant, the major and the captain. In both the world wars during 20th century, 95 percent of the armies, many millions strong, both from the side of 'invaders' and the 'defenders', were constituted by the 'Youth'. Millions of them butchered one another, in the matter of a few couple of years, primarily in defence of the causes and convictions ingrained in their psyches. Commitment to the conviction has remained, therefore, an inborn trait with the youth. All the revolutions that shook the world at different places and at different times—the French Revolution, the Russian and the Chinese Revolution, the African and the Indian Freedom Struggles, all have the youth as heroes of the great dramas of the history. Even in Great Indian Epics near home but far away in

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historical distance, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, the two great youth-Rama and Krishna, are the immortal heroes who have gone deep into the Indian psyche.

The above simple surveying passage is meant to signify the basic truth of the STORY OF MAN that it is the Youth who represent the sum total of the strength (or weakness) of a nation. They can not be overrated (or underrated).

Before proceeding further, it will be better to draw age boundaries to categories the Youth in more specific terms. In most constitutions of the world, including the Indian, any person having attained the age of 18 years has the right of franchise. This is the beginning of the youthful age. Similarly, in most countries as a matter of convention (and even on scientific basis) the decline of the youthful period is believed to start at  $40 \pm 5$  years depending upon geographical condition and dietary status of the population. As such YOUTH of our discussion will mean and include all able bodied persons between 18 to  $40 \pm 5$  years of age irrespective of caste, colour, creed and sex.

## **2. Indian Youth-in Retrospect :**

Historically speaking, India as a Nation has suffered a humiliating subjugation right from fourteenth century to middle of twentieth century, first from Mughals and then from the British Empire. There may be thousands of explanations and hundreds of reasons for this most serious stigmatic historical eclipse of Indian civilization and history, but the fact is that it is a bitter truth. Somewhere the values of the culture that were Indian and the wisdom that was Indian and the valour of the Indian youth seem to have all gone under hibernation for centuries at a stretch. There were, of course, some mostly stray, unorganized and regional uprisings in the Punjab, the Rajputana and the Marthawad, but the Yoke of subjugation continued unshaken throughout the country for all these seven and odd centuries. It was only during middle of the nineteenth century that the Indian Youth stirred from unaccounted slumber of centuries. It was the Mutiny of 1857 that marks the beginning



of the Indian Freedom struggle and was clearly due to the sudden awakening of Indian Youth in several parts of the country. A cursory study of the Freedom struggle from 1857 to 1947 will reveal an interesting fact. The freedom struggle was started, supported, sustained and successfully brought to its logical conclusion primarily by a leadership which had taken up the cause during their YOUTHFUL days. The old guard was and remained peaceful, thoughtful, philosophical, passively resistant and cautious and cooperative with the regime prolonging to the period of subjugation, albeit indirectly. Some historians must go back to statistical details about the population distribution in the Indian subcontinent during all those periods of subjugation. The youth component might have been in dismal minority compared to those above forty or below twenty. However, the picture changed dramatically and thereafter thousands of youth plunged directly into the freedom struggle taking the movement almost entirely in their hands. A great majority of them made total sacrifice of their entire youth to the cause of freedom and thousands of them laid down their lives to achieve the cherished goal. Giving a few names of youth who are remembered as heroes of freedom struggle would be grave injustice to millions of others who suffered enormously unnoticed and unsung. True, there were people of all ages who participated actively and totally in freedom struggle. But it is also a bitter fact that a great majority of those who took the struggle in all its versions—Satya-grahas, revolutionary movements and armed rebellion forming Azad Hind Army, the Ratio of Youth to elder people was always predominantly much higher in favour of youth. The elder faction remained relegated mostly to patronization guidance and moral and material support.

### **3. Post Independence Youth**

After the proverbial – “Freedom at Midnight” in August 1947, it seems the youth of India once again suddenly took to hibernation, perhaps due to fatigue of struggle, leaving the



country and its governance entirely to the most deserving cadres; people who had grown old and older while fighting for freedom. It can be surmised that for first 25-30 years after freedom, majority of youth of the period who had been just children during the last phase of the freedom struggle felt fully assured about the capacity, capability, experience of their elders to lay proper foundations for the reconstruction and further progress of free India. They gave their leaders unstinted and unquestioned cooperation and support which was demonstrated by a uniquely stable Democratic Rule all through a very long period 1950-1970, almost 20 years. Deep and strong foundations were definitely laid down for rise of great giant nation despite the pangs of partition and deceitful behaviour of neighbours in 1947, 1962 and 1965. During all these interruptions in the March to progress, the Youth, though in the REST phase, was found to be as alert and as vigilant and required. He was seen in the streets and at the front taking the charge of the situation. In the war songs of those time it was he who was eulogized first : JAI JAWAN - JAI KISAN. The Youth watched and enjoyed with abject satisfaction the immense benefits of freedom progress on all fronts; Agriculture, Education, Health, Industry, Communications, Roads, Railways, Ship-building, Defence Research and Development, Aviation, Defence Services—Army, Navy and Air Force, etc. Graphs were fast rising northwards. It was a grand satisfying scenario. The all deficient India fast becoming all-self-reliant India. It was historic achievement.

The seventies saw the first aberration. It was observed that the nation was being led away and astray from the chosen and cherished path of progress through a secular, democratic route. We all saw Indian youth suddenly rising as ONE from deep slumber. The uprising of middle seventies was no less a grand phenomenon than any great phase of freedom movement. It was not against any foreign rule or ruler. It was against a fault in the internal system. YOUTH CAME FORWARD WITH



AMAZING VIGOUR, VITALITY AND FORCE. The aberration was corrected. THE GREAT INDIAN SHIP was once again put on the right course, primarily and solely by the YOUTH POWER OF INDIA, and before it could do any permanent damage, the youth leaders of seventies soon became mature. Some of them took the governance of the states and country into their hands.

#### **4. Youth in Contemporary India**

With the turn of the twentieth century, our country seems to have entered an entirely different and difficult terrain to scale the 'peaks of progress' the latter term signifying achievements in "totality" rather than in isolated sectors and sections. It seems heartening that all the inputs of past fifty years or so have started mushrooming as very welcome outputs. Due to very deeply thought out and meticulously executed 10 five years plans, our development seems to be greatly, if not absolutely, satisfying. We are in highly comfortable era of economic stability, agricultural self-sufficiency, technology boom and industrial production. We are no longer among the "most backward" nations of the world. We are even no longer among the "developing" nations. We are already shoulder-to-shoulder with the so called developed nations. Barring a few self-established critical parameters for indexing development, our strengths and achievements are parallel with that of any other advanced countries. In fact we have rightfully reached a stage in the comity of about 200 nations where we stand among the Top TEN on most of indexing scales.

Our contemporary youth have already established their merit, intelligence, integrity and capabilities in all the fields that have any significance in the modern times. You name any area and you will find dozens, scores and hundreds of Indian youth vying, competing, succeeding and winning scores after score. From the SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT to space technology, to sports – the Indian youth are capturing the imaginations of the world at large. We deliberately



avoid mentioning names of few young heroes as that will hurt scores and hundreds of others equivalently talented or waiting in wings. Some one from young India will be surely found sitting in one or the other country worth the name holding some responsible position—in & its management, scientific research and development organization. At home, all the big, important and sensitive organizations, establishments and industries are presently being manned and managed by our own YOUTH whose average age is around 30 years. And the all around progress and success in all these sectors reflects amply and beyond any doubt that they are doing extremely well. Even in political management, all major political parties of the country have fully appreciated the necessity of the vigour of the youth in their organizations. From Kashmir to Kanya Kumari and Goa and Assam a mere count will show the emergence of YOUNG people in large numbers in the forefront of political activities. It is, in our view, the most promising development for the future of our country. As we know YOUTH, irrespective of the country to which they belong to, are most straight-forward, honest, full of integrity and committed to any cause they take up. Hence, time has come for India to establish itself in the top ten of the world during next ten years or so.

## 5. Conclusion

As per the latest census in India, youth (as defined above) form more than 60 percent of total 1 Billion people of our country. A great and very meaningful majority, perhaps for the first time in recorded history of India, we have come to such a stage. If, on the basis of these facts, we declare that Indian Democratic Republic is in essence **Republic of Youth** who will deny it and on what basis. These assertions have meaning entirely different and totally unrelated to any political thought. But they do definitely indicate towards a great socio—**ECONOMICAL POTENTIAL** that is going to be unleashed, in fact is already in the process, during next 10-15 years. It is



not for no reasons that our visionary president has made a prophecy that India of 2020 will be a great power of the world.

Youth of 19th and 20th century gave their lives for achieving freedom and consolidating the same. Youth of first phase of 20-30 years of 21st century are destined to make this country a formidable power, dedicated to service of mankind existing on the planet. Let there be no doubt on that account. The YOUTH of India are on the MARCH.

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# BEGUILED YOUTH OF INDIA

Prof. Roop Singh\*

## CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Youth problem is more akin to the developing world than the developed one. Barring some African countries, the population of the youth, generally below fifteen years of age ranges between 36 percent to about 40 percent in developing countries including India.

Youths are, therefore, potential resources to shoulder onerous responsibilities of our country. As ill luck would have it, our youth seem to be derailing from the mainstream due to host of socio-economic, cultural and political considerations and policies.

The glaring problem besetting the Indian youth is the system of education. This system, by and large, is a legacy of the British rule in India. We have just not risen shoulder high against the policy of creating 'Babudom' through so called modern system of education. There is, thus, hiatus between creativity that is responsible for brining sustained economic growth and effective management in the country.

To boot, there are wide geographical as well as ethnic diversities which have created regional imbalances in many fields, such as socio-economic, cultural and political. This differential component in the socio-economic setup, level of literacy, degree of social awakening, is responsible for the derailment of youth from the mainstream.

Though, education is in the list of Directive Principle of State Policy, yet, it was government of India to have it universalized at the elementary level to boost up literacy in the country. Under the scheme each child upto the age of

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fourteen in 6-14 age group should have compulsory enrolment in government schools or aided schools in private sector. But it has not yielded promising result because literacy is tagged to functional utility. As a result of which there is phenomenal gap between literacy level of male and female in our country. Though, universalization is being raised from the primary to the secondary level in due course of time.

All such countries as had a spell of feudal system or remained colonies of the west like our country nurtured biased attitude against female mobility and instead, encouraged early marriage of the girl child which contributed for low female literacy.

Thus, differential of literacy level between male and female in a country of growing economy is responsible to a considerable extent for the derailment of youth from the mainstream.

The differential of the Urban and rural literacy level has a deep correlation with the degree of diversification of economic growth in rural / urban sector. So, a rural youth, in a traditional agrarian setup, does not find much avenues in his village and migrates to urban establishments in utter frustration. He turns out to be like a square peg in a round hole in the city.

Such youths, obviously get derailed from the mainstream of progress for themselves in particular and the country in general.

Moreover, there is no correlation between the population growth and the tempo of diversification of economy in many fields of our country. As a result, unemployment is ever on the increase. In the wake of present growth rate which has crossed the billion mark, it is not possible to generate employment avenues in the public sector.

It is therefore, a vital cause in itself for the derailment of unemployed youth from the mainstream. More often than not, our youths become plaything at the hands of political leaders



and demagogues who use them as tools for their own political ends or to gain political mileage by exploiting them.

Unemployed youths readily yield to political offers and overtures from so called leaders or other political parties, perhaps, as quid pro quo, but are deluded in the long run.

Thus, for no fault of their own, they get derailed from the mainstream, there are some of the remedies which need to be adhered to by the government and society to utilize the services of the youth for the development of the countries.

1. Youths, like the work force, are national bank balances. The government and society should make every endeavour to ensure 100 percent literacy in the country. The element of drop-outs be not only minimized but contained completely.
2. Diversification of economy, especially in the rural sector will generate employment avenues and will reduce migration of youth from rural areas to urban areas – major cause for the derailment of youth from the mainstream.
3. Socio-economic, religious and political awareness be popularized among illiterate and semi-illiterate masses so that they realise their legitimate duties towards the State. It will generate a sense of discipline, responsibility, consciousness and balance of mind in the youth.
4. Political leaders be reined in such a way that they simply cannot exploit a youth for his/her political ends.
5. The menace of population growth be contained vigorously so as to give employment to at least one member of a family.
6. The system of education be over hauled at all levels. It should be job oriented so that a youth after achieving a desired level of education in a particular job oriented field is absorbed / employed.
7. Quality education be imparted at all levels but it should not be divorced of the moral education. In other words



quality education coupled with moral education will go a long way to generate an element of confidence and self-reliance among youths so that they become conscious of their duties and obligations towards the State. This will help bring the economic milieu on the railing and considerably save the youth from the derailment from the mainstream.

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# DERAILING OF THE YOUTH FROM THE MAINSTREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Prof. R. K. Chhibber\*

The present day world is beset with many serious problems like population explosion, unemployment, rise in crime, deforestation, pollution, poverty, hunger and starvation. But the most compelling one that concerns everyone is the derailing of the youth from the mainstream.

The youth form about more than 50% of the whole population. They are the backbone of a nation as also the strength of the nation. The main responsibility of leading a nation to success lies on their shoulders.

Emerson said –

**‘Not gold, but only men can make, a nation great and strong’.**

Whereas the seeds of ideal youth lie in his infancy and we do agree that ‘child is the father of man’, therefore the future of a nation is embedded in the infancy of a child. It is the responsibility of the parents, society, teachers and the government to ensure that the child grows into a spiritually sound, intellectually alert, noble, energetic, socially useful, enthusiastic in all ventures and adventurous youth with indomitable will. Such youth are an asset to the world.

Of late there seems to be growing a widespread fear that the youth of today are not as strong, virtuous, bold, brave, compassionate and outstanding as they were in the past. It is being felt that in view of the present crisis, the youth are derailing from the mainstream.

Looking at the positive side of the picture it appears that the youth have great ability, capability, potential and

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dynamism. Exceptions ? yes, there are also misguided minds who have somehow deviated from the mainstream.

Why have the youth derailed from the mainstream is a very critical issue facing the world and needs thorough debating to be able to identify the root causes and find a solution before the problem intensifies. There are a multitude of causes that are responsible for this degeneration that need immediate, remedial measures. These causes may be socio-economic, political or educational besides various other pertinent factors.

It is my firm conviction that if these factors are remedied with understanding and judiciousness, the derailed youth can certainly be brought back to the mainstream as stronger, better and more reformed than before having tasted the bitterness of way wardness. Evil ways have a short life, truth, beauty and goodness are everlasting and therefore the welcome home coming!

Lord Tennyson said

**“The old order changeth, yielding place to new.”**

Change is the law of nature. It is inevitable so we cannot expect that the youth of today will be same as the youth of the past. We can only hope that the change takes place for the better.

Various factors can be attributed to the derailment of the youth, some of which are listed below-

- ❖ Lack of parental supervision and guidance.
- ❖ Lack of effective, inspiring teachers of impact and integrity.
- ❖ Materialistic out took, temptation, greed, abundance of facilities.
- ❖ Obsolete and unpragmatic educational system.
- ❖ Overpopulation, unemployment, poverty, deprivation and bleak prospects.
- ❖ Absence of moral values and discipline.
- ❖ Disuse / misuse of potential, lack of focus and direction.

- ❖ Frustration due to competitive challenges and discrimination at all levels.
- ❖ Unjudicious and blind copying of the western ways of the life / lust for glitz and glamour.
- ❖ Temptation to explore the forbidden boundaries and territories.
- ❖ Insatiable human wants and desires.

Causes and remedies go hand in hand. Remove the causes and we have the remedies. All we have to do is to reverse the order, e.g.-

- ❖ Continuous parental supervision and guidance.
- ❖ Restructuring of educational system / vocationalisation of education.
- ❖ Inculcation of moral and spiritual values.
- ❖ Proper channelisation of innate, latent capacities, capabilities and energies.
- ❖ Promotion of the spirit of healthy competition.
- ❖ Cautious and strict censoring of obscene / provocative/ crime dominated / violent movies and T.V. programmes.
- ❖ Inspiring teachers of integrity, having honesty of purpose, devotion in addition to academic excellence be given preference at the time of selection and appointment.
- ❖ Qualities of head and heart be given an edge over material gains.
- ❖ Teacher-student relationship be strengthened and mutual trust created.

The above are just some of the remedies. Many more could be identified.

Coming back to the causes of derailment of the youth from the mainstream, I would like to reflect on the Vedic system of noble bearing where the four Ashramas of the life of human being were –



Brahmcharya - (celebacy)

Grahashthashrama - (fulfillment of duties towards the family)

Vanaprastha - (Life of seclusion) and

Sanyasa - (Complete renunciation of the material world)

In the present context, I would touch only the first Ashram, namely, Brahmcharya (the first 25 years of man's life), because this period concerns our youth and their responsibilities. Also, it prepares them for the remaining three Ashramas. The modern day youth may be far from recognizing the value of this Ashrama, but the fact cannot be denied that it does hold good even today. The tenets of celebacy enable the youth to shoulder the responsibilities to make the world a better place to live, hence they are required to focus on the ideals of celebacy – lust for knowledge and not for material possessions, devotion to duty, righteous living, noble thoughts, freedom from greed, avarice and temptation.

The first 25 years are crucial to the wholesome growth and development of the body, mind and soul. These years if properly groomed and nurtured, lay the foundation for the entire life and prepare the youth to face any challenges of life-external as well as internal.

It would not be out of place to mention here that the first and foremost duty of training the youth, lies with the parents, especially the mother. “Give me a hundred strong mothers and I will give you a strong nation,” said Napoleon. A child learns his first lessons in the lap of his mother. Unfortunately parents today have little time to give to their children. They are more interested in providing all luxuries to their wards instead of being their friends and mentors. Not only this, they try to compensate their most valued presence by providing material wealth like T.V., Cell phones, pocket money, latest means of swift transportation etc rather than giving them emotional stability. They don't even check to see where the money given to them goes. This unsupervised wealth continues to open unwanted avenues – the youth resort to drugs, criminal activities, violence,



and anti social behaviour. They lose respect for the code of conduct for lawful activities and face moral degeneration.

Teachers come next. They also play a crucial and pivotal role in the life of youth. The world needs teachers who can inspire, impact and transform their lives. They can turn their whole upside down but only if they themselves are academically sound, dedicated and devoted to their profession, honest, friendly and caring. They have to be the role models whom students can trust and follow. Truly speaking their impact on the youth is greater and stronger than that of their parents. It is heartening that the society today is faced with immoral acts, biased attitude and corrupt practices by those who are meant to enlighten the society.

Our educational system needs reorientation. The age-old methods and curriculum needs overhauling and revamping as a vast majority of highly qualified youth remain jobless because they do not have the required skill and expertise to be useful. Hence vocationatisation of education is the need of the hour. There is further need for career counseling. The youth are confused, lost and frustrated because of the bleak future prospects despite a mushrooming of professional colleges throughout the country. These colleges are out of the reach of a vast majority because of the money part of it. Of course, there are government colleges also that provide quality education but they can not keep pace with the fast growing number of youth. Also, their mode of selection is too competitive leaving many unsuccessful which causes demoralization. It is also alleged that these selections are not always fair. Worse still, the youth belonging to the rural areas are way behind the urbanites. Therefore, the youth from rural areas are deprived of many opportunities. Education has been commercialized due to the opening up of thousands of private, professional colleges. Even after spending a large amount of money there are no avenues for employment. This situation leaves the youth bewildered and dejected since regular jobs are hard to find, highly qualified youth resort to jobs on contract basis.



Another corrupting and degenerating factor is the production and display of films and T.V. programmes that have no conformity with the Indian value system or culture, violence, sex, crime, vulgarity and obscenity depicted in these programmes exercise a great influence on the immature minds. These temptations, lust for glamour and fashion are a negative factor that is ruining the moral fibre of the society and the lives of our youth. They try to identify more with the show world rather than the reality of life. Their language, style, manners and mannerisms all are influenced by the movies.

The censor board has a vital role to play in this regard. People will definitely watch value based programmes if they are left with no other options and choices. I am reminded of the days when the great epics Ramayan & Mahabharat were released. Even the youth would eagerly await the next episode. Life in the outer world would come to a stand still because everyone would be glued to the TV sets. The success of such like shows is a proof of the fact that all hope is not lost and that youth too have respect for moral values that can give them spiritual strength as opposed to love for materialism.

On the contrary, there is no denying the fact that the youth do have a craving and yearning to become rich overnight as in the present day society, success is associated with worldly possessions and material assets. Hence money has become the be all and end all of their lives. Temptations are so dominant that easy money by any means – moral or immoral, is what they want. In the effort to make wealth, they get exploited by vested interests, indulge in unlawful activities, and yield to baser pressures. Besides, too much independence and free hand in all matters also adds to the negative thinking and behaviour of the youth. It is good to have independent thinking but harmful to have unsupervised freedom.

To remedy such negativity, efforts should be made to give direction to the youth seeking guidance. Their latent,



innate capacities and capabilities, energies and potential should be properly channelised. They need to focus on the target and not lost sight of it. In the absence of clear goals and objectives they are apt to become direction less. Hence they need proper guidance from parents, teachers and the society. They sure have abundance of potential in them. All they need, is to put it to creative and constructive use.

One of the derailing factor is too much political interference in policy making, curricular changes, higher level selections in sports and other national and international events and competitions. Really deserving youth are often left behind whereas the influential ones are selected to represent the State or country. This discriminatory attitude causes a great resentment among the youth. Unfortunately, it is evident at all levels right from the birth of a child where the male child is preferred to a female child. Girls are deprived of many opportunities which the boys enjoy. This discrimination is more dominant in the rural areas. The world is changing and there is a lot of awakening but it will take some more time for the mindset to change and to realise that whenever given a chance, the girls have proved beyond doubt that they can excel in every sphere be it education, sports, business or administration and that they have the required will, wisdom, maturity and potential. Hence a radical, social change is needed where the parents have to take the lead and initiative.

It can not be forgotten that the youth of our country both men and women have always made great scarifies for the freedom of our country. S. Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Raj guru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Luxmi Bai, Chand Bibi and hundreds of youth under the compelling influence of Mahatma Gandhi laid down their lives for the motherland.

On the other hand we have misguided youth with a lot of energy being exploited at the hands of vested interests. This energy and force which can bring about great, revolutionary



changes is being misused and diverted towards destructive activities, compelling the youth to fall easy prey to greed and temptation ignoring the voice of their inner self and conscience.

It is high time the youth should realize that they are the real wealth of the nation. They need to be judicious enough to distinguish right from wrong. They are the architects of future and it is their responsibility to give a new look to the world.

It is also high time and imperative on the part of Government, the teachers, leaders and parents that each one should realize its obligation towards the youth. There should be no place for any bias, prejudice, discrimination or apathy. Education should be completely overhauled to meet the need of each individual whether rural or urban. Job opportunities need to be increased to end unemployment and ensure self reliance and self sufficiency. The voice of the youth should be respected to give them recognition. Mutual trust and respect can go a long way in ensuring that the youth have a dignified place in the society and that they have a special duty towards making their country great and strong.

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# DERAILED YOUTH NEED SUBTLE HEALING TOUCH

Suraj Saraf\*

Modern youth are largely rebels sans cause. They are in tearing hurry not believing that there is no short cut to success. Being temperamental they soon get frustrated and derailed. Bringing them back in mainstream requires all embracing initiatives and revitalised education.

Modern youth is a wonder contradictory phenomenon. On the one hand they're endowed with tremendous energy and daring to reach somewhere but on the other hand firstly they are at a loss to fix for themselves any worthwhile cause to struggle for and secondly they are not ready to slog to succeed in life. By and large they have developed an attitude to be in hurry, rather in a tearing hurry, which becomes a serious hazard in their intended onward march.

Modern youth does not believe in hard, planned work to achieve something in life. They are for hop and jump (no step). They forget that there is no short cut to success.

The result is that being quick tempered, they soon get bewildered, frustrated and even depressed. They eventually seek escape in wasteful activities, rather they become non-active; many taking to undesirable pursuits.

For lots of them fast life and glamour become in things. Film stars become their role models. But to lead that sort of life requires huge money. However, for that they are not ready to labour hard. But frame for that is so strong, even irresistible, that it drives many of them to crime, drugs and ruin.

Say psychiatrists, "We are seeing an escalation in the number of youngsters who think they can get away with

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\* *Journalist*



anything. Their role models are material achievers. Their's is a generation which is constantly on edge, manipulating coercing, flouting all discipline. Freedom for them is a complete denial of responsibility leading to reckless living."

"In short modern youth, by and large, are rebels without cause. That is their dilemma and of their elders, too, as to how to discipline them and channellise their bubbling energy to worthwhile causes. Lying, impulsiveness, truancy and thefts are all symptoms of anti-social tendencies in the youth," stress psychiatrists. It may be all the more concerning that cases of this sort of youth do not come merely from slums or other poorer sections but all layers of society are involved in it; even elite schools and backgrounds are no exception.

According to psychiatrists, who are referred such cases, firstly it is no longer mere big cities witnessing this disconcerting development but the affliction had spread to small towns and countryside, too, and secondly it is no longer only boys who are turning anti-social. There're also girls who are behaving that way.

### **Re-moulding education**

All this leads us to think if our education system needs reorientation? As recently pointed out by our President and the renowned scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam while inaugurating fifty years of National Gallery of Modern Art, it is important to include art as subject to make education process complete.

Inclusion and growth of creativity in education is crucial as it combines, ideas, observations, expressions and learning with a planned design. It is emotionally satisfying and intellectually stimulating for a child. Besides opportunities to express oneself with novelty and enhancing a child's ability and personality, it promotes life skills and competence. All these are fundamental to evolve an integrated personality that the complete education should aim at and that will enable the child later on to face the grim challenges of life, when grown up, with equanimity and diligence. Most important it will hinder the youth from adopting wayward attitudes in life.



Indeed, education is not merely a cerebral activity of acquiring knowledge. It is a means towards integrated growth and self-actualization. It is integration of three Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic and three HS) (hands, heart and head). While three Rs can be mastered through academics, three HS can well be achieved through creativity viz arts.

The realization that creativity is of paramount importance had gradually started permeating the education system in India.

While there is already a National Focus group in the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) working in that behalf, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) had also pitched in for inclusion of arts in education in Asian nations. Recently (March 2005) in that behalf it organized a four-day symposium in New Delhi to work out the modalities for that purpose. The symposium was inaugurated by Dr. Karan Singh.

It is significant that while hitherto art has been merely an extra subject, the symposium stressing the need for an integrated approach to encourage learning through the arts, unanimously agreed that art should penetrate the entire education system instead of being broken up into small specialized modules. There were education and art experts from across Asia participating in the symposium. UNESCO had started practical steps in that behalf by launching three observatories to act as a clearing house of information about arts in education and facilitating knowledge sharing within Asia. The three observatories will be initially started in India, Pakistan and Hong Kong.

How ignoring arts in education limits brain development is cogently illustrated by anthropologists who underpin that it was the use of hands in such simple activities like handling a stick, reaching for an object, throwing a stone or smashing it, scraping, etching; etc. (termed in anthropology as play impulses of the primitive man) that by and by led to development of amazing brain activities in arts, science and technology. Therefore, the emphasis on arts and playway method of education in modern time.



“Generally, all discoveries and inventions of pure science and fine arts, these intellectual and aesthetic pursuits which are carried on without reference to technology or utility, may be credited to the functioning of the human play impulse..... Which in science and art is translated into the realm of imagination, abstraction, relations and sensual form,” highlights renowned anthropologist A.L. Kroeber in his “Anthropology”.

However, so sad that whereas during their infancy we encourage and help children to indulge in multifarious games when they will also be exercising their hands and developing their brains, but when taken to schools, parents as also teachers pressurize children to take much more to reading and writing and not ‘waste’ their time in exercising their hands in arts (performing or fine) and games, little realizing that by doing so they would be depriving the children in properly developing their brain potential.

In order to wean away the children from developing violent tendencies, world health organization had also launched a drive to introduce peace lessons in the class rooms. The feeling that education should not remain confined to three Rs. in the classroom if it has to be revitalized and widespread, Central Board of School Education has also issued a circular to all school head asking them to focus on outdoor activities and field trips instead of depending on books or textual matter alone. Student should be exposed to the world they live in and its problems and issues, said the Board.

It is welcome that realization had started dawning to remoulding the education to check the youth from losing the proper social path by trying to develop balanced views through art, games, out door activities peace lectures etc.

No doubt suitable education right from the start when their minds are so easily impressionable, is crucial to have children who when they grew up would not get derailed when confronted with life challenges however serious and difficult.



However, what to do with the youth that had get derailed already. It is, indeed, Herculean problem as is being witnessed almost everywhere. According to a World Health Organisation survey in 2002, ever 1.6 lives are being lost annually (besides countless being crippled and maimed) as wages of violence. And by and large teenagers are responsible for that.

The problem is seriously complicated by the fact that these are times of rapid social changes all over, creating traumatic stresses and strains. Breaking of joint families, which could absorb shocks, had made things all the more difficult.

An underscored in a workshop on management of social changes, using good ideas in society would ultimately lead to a better destiny through actions, habits and characters. According to practicing psychiatrists derailed youth usually come from broken homes or homes where there is little parental supervision at an early age. Supervision should not be mistaken with authoritarianism but healthy interaction where there is frequent communication in the form of suggestions but no pontification from a position of authority, which youth resent and shun.

Perhaps paradoxically, the solution if any is also in the hands of elders who in leading positions to themselves behave maturely and launching constructive initiatives roping in the youth. There is, no doubt, that all this will require whopping efforts but there's no way out. To effect an attitudinal change or correct personality disorder is, indeed, the most enormous task, but surely not impossible. However, it can be facilitated if launched on a mass level sincerely and in a dedicated way.

### **Behavioural therapy**

A welcome development in cognitive behavioural therapy is reported from London, which allows people with personality disorders to live normally. "By helping people to face up to their personalities, they can stop seeing themselves as automatically a bad person and build a life for themselves, it's about putting a positive spin on what seems like negative characteristic."



However, this is only for individual cases. When the problem of youth derailment has become so widespread, only positive campaigns started on mass level can be of avail.

But Rs. 64,000 question is who will bell the cat? It is the leaders on social, political and spiritual levels, besides starting it from homes and schools, who can and have to do it.

That is the only way to utilize their bubbling energy in some useful field. Otherwise writing on the wall is telling.

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# DERAILMENT OF YOUTH FROM MAINSTREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Dr. Nater Singh\*

Youth constitute the most active and productive segment of the population. This age group is full of physical energy, potentiality and enthusiasm which needs an outlet. They have played a significant role in our struggle for freedom and were instrumental in carrying forward a protracted political movement in the pre-independence era. But youth in post-independence era felt that they were kept out of the mainstream of national life. This has resulted in frustration which led to social chaos and unrest. Youth is a very vocal and volatile section which not only demands our attention to its special problems and potential but also stakes its claim for participation in the national affairs. This problem of restlessness has a far reaching consequence and if it is not solved satisfactorily, it is bound to affect adversely the future of our nation. The derailment of youth from the mainstream and how to bring them into the orbit of national mainstream is really a question of Himalyan dimensions. The youth has become a victim of countless economic, political and social evils. It would be worthwhile to attempt analysis of the cause which could explain the reasons for the derailment of the youth from the mainstream, and the suggestive measures which may considerably help to put them back on the track. At the root of this alarming situation leading to derailment of the youth appears to be a pent up fury, a deep rooted frustration and a sense of desperation. The prolonged unemployment leading to demoralization,

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dejection and impatience have greatly contributed to this menace. An unemployed man or woman can prove to be a very dangerous person. The youth are full of energy, drive and initiative and if not properly tackled, are bound to explode into innumerable anti-social activities. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that the youth is suitably employed and its energies and skills are harnessed for nation-building activities. A democratic welfare State can greatly eliminate the problem of unemployment by creating large scale job opportunities both in the public and private sectors. The recent spurt of violent activities in certain parts of the country have bloomed into militancy which become a force to reckon with. The youth got astray and their frustration is the direct product of lack of faith in the existing social order and the legal system. Youths, resort to violent means to achieve their objectives if they fail to get into jobs they aspire. Indeed it is a fight against injustice and as such our aim should be to remove the evils and not the evil-doers. It is shocking that our five year plans have increased the number of unemployed. It is because our planners have failed in taking a long term view of the problem. This line of reasoning demands that our manpower planning should be based on objective analysis, facts and figures and intelligent fixing of our priorities, planning and policies.

Secondly, our entire political, economic and social system have added fuel to the fire. The shrewd politicians of our country who are frustrated and dejected are responsible for instigating the youth to indulge in acts of indiscipline and anti-national activities. In order to gain their political ends, they exploit the youth who sometimes turn violent when they fail to get the job or promises made by the leadership fulfilled. Although the youth may be blamed for going astray yet the malady from which they are suffering is not of their own making. In fact, the cause lies in the defective system of education and the apathy



on the part of the govt which has failed to reform and consolidate our educational system both at the lower and higher level. Mere expansion is not going to serve any meaningful purpose unless it lays stress on consolidation, morality and character building. Being academic in nature it lacks vocational and technical training. The govt. the teachers and the politicians must see that the tender souls of our country are made to follow the path of righteousness. Let youth not be used as tools to serve the vested interests of the political bosses. The youth of India is the architect of 'India of Tomorrow'. The leaders in future should not be allowed to go astray as in their hands lies the destiny of millions of people. They needed to be reformed for their sake and the good of the country as a whole.

The other factors equally responsible for derailing are provided by the glaring economic inequalities, drug menace and corruption etc. Because of economic inequality, the majority consisting of the weaker sections continue to remain deprived of the basic necessities of life while a lucky few lead a princely life. Although economic equality in a democratic setup is a distant cry to get effective socio-economic reforms are needed to considerably reduce the economic inequality. Similarly, the drug menace, which is common among the young and the old, the poor and the affluent, has assumed serious proportions in India. It is high time that the government should take important steps both in legislation and enforcement to combat drugs. The non-government organizations can also render great help while undertaking awareness building programmes to save the youth from its deadly sting. The evil practice of corruption is another factor, which besides eating into the vitals of our society has affected youth the most. There is need for moral awakening of our people, Leaders and administrators and the youth in particular can take a lead. It may be pertinent to mention that with the help of the youth of China, Mao Tsetung, the Chairman of



the Peoples Republic of China (1949-59) and the Chinese communist party affected the great cultural revolution which transformed the whole of China into one of the great political and military powers of the world. Economic inequality has thus explosive potential and can get ignited into a full blast with the least effort. There is no dearth of angry elements who are ready with inflammable material of provocation to put the entire system to flames. One of the best ways can be the greater involvement of our youth in welfare schemes, community development programmes and nation building activities so as to generate in them a sense of purpose, pride and self-confidence. It is only by such means that the people in India can be given much needed self-confidence and a sense of fulfillment and belonging. They can be inspired to work in the slums and villages in their spare time. Besides people in general, the voluntary organization like NSS etc. can play a pivotal role to bind and blend the youth for proper orientation and steps are needed to engage the youths of the country in the nation building activities. Their zeal, enthusiasm and energy need to be channelized in the social reconstruction and developmental activities. Youth may be having their own limitations or problems but these can largely be removed or considerably decreased by extending sympathy, understanding and appreciation of the young persons. The elders can't be absolved of their responsibilities vis-a-vis the youth. Besides religion has been a motive force for humanity since times immemorial, the role of religions groups, as such assumes great importance, particularly, in a traditional society like India which desires a lot of strength and moral strength from the religious attitude of our people. The youth can greatly be inspired through religious coaching and sermons. In fact concerted effort is required to encourage and inspire youth to come back into the fold of national mainstream.

People in general and politicians and teachers in particular can play a vital role as catalysts and good communicators for generating awareness among the youth about the different plans and programmes thereby checking the exploitation caused to them. In order to mobilize and utilize the youth potentials towards national development campaigns like youth against dowry, youth for population control, youth for rural reconstruction etc. can be organized on massive scale. The problem, in short, is to be met through an integrated and concerted approach, in which total involvement of all is needed.

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# YOUTH UNREST, CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Er. Mohammad Ashraf Fazili\*

To understand the working of human mind, we shall have to trace references from the scriptures, scholars and scan the historical development and the prevailing environment that has shaped the mind-set of the contemporary youth.

At the very time of creation of Adam, we are told, that the angels had expressed their fears of this creature, smelling of conflict and spilling of blood. However, the superiority of Adam was established on exhibition of his knowledge which made angels to surrender and prostrate before Adam except one "Iblis", who refused to prostrate and had reached to be their leader through his prayers and obedience. This invited condemnations of Iblis and deprivation of his stature due to his false pride of alleged superior creation from fire as compared to that of Adam created out of earth. Instead of showing repentance, Iblis prayed for leave to live till the day of judgment, which was granted. The purpose being to take revenge from his arch rival Adam and his progeny; who became the cause for his degradations and demotion. Thus he could divert Adam on wrong path inviting wrath of Almighty, besides make him thankless. There shall, however, be exemption in case of people who are sincere and obedient to the commands of almighty and they will remain safe in all respects. The Angels are ever engaged in the obedience of Almighty and jinn were created out of fire.

Adam was bestowed with both the Angelic & Satanic qualities & there is a conflict going on between the two forces, even within his self and whichever force prevails, frames the character of the person. Angelic behaviour is depicted by the

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\* (B.E. Hons F.IE, MIRC.)



person who overcomes the satanic desires and vice versa this struggle within one's self is known as GREATER JIHAD.

The prescribed law is that good deeds shall be rewarded with blissful after life and bad deeds will lead to hell. This was banished Iblis and condemned to wait for everlasting hell along with those who follow him till the last day.

To this animosity of Iblis, Adam fell as the first prey, when Iblis motivated him to taste the forbidden fruit of the ban prohibited tree in heaven, on which Adam repented for a pretty long time. The repentance was accepted by the Almighty, but it led to the ouster of Adam along with Eve and his progeny from heaven to earth, for a certain period of time; in company of his arch enemy 'Iblis' and his progeny, who is full of jealousy against man. However, those who do not fall prey to satanic scheme of things have been assured to reclaim their original belonging of Jannat for ever.

It was also commanded that henceforth you shall be enemies of each other. This was the result of disobedience of one commandment of Almighty and the result of this animosity continues to surface every now and then throughout the history of mankind.

The first murder of human beings took place, when Adam's son "cain" killed his brother 'Abel' and the sin of every subsequent murder is shared by the trendsetter 'Cain',..

There is a clear verdict : "He who kills a person, kills as if whole of humanity; & he who saved a person, saves as if entire humanity."

Thus the battle between the truth and falsehood continued among the prophets, their followers and their opponents, culminating into their martyrdom. Prophets had to face conflicts with their persecutors and the pages of history are full of such events even in respect of their followers. This is known as smaller Jihad.

The cause of downfall of Bani-Israel is described to be due to the murder of their prophets from time to time.

Evil forces present themselves with a great attraction to the common man as a sugar coated poison. This is multiplied



by ignorance, lack of moral teaching and desire for quick results of selfish desires leading common folk to astray. However in this battle of truth and falsehood, which is ever going on; ultimately truth prevails, though many people perish during the course.

It is said that "It takes two hands to clap," that may provide a clue to the modern unrest among the youth. To know the cause, we may have to explore the roots of the trouble.

History is witness to the revolts of people against the order of the day in various corners of the globe and on various occasions. In earlier days tribes used to select their leader, whoever overpowered the rest and there would be rebellion against the suppression causing uprising. Tribes would fight against each other and the more powerful would subdue others. Later days have witnessed suppression by colonial powers of the ruled masses for centuries together culminating into the freedom struggle and resulting establishment of Independent governments. Great world wars were the result of a group of nations joining hands against the rival group of countries resulting into mass murders culminating into dropping of nuclear-bombs on innocent masses; which is now justified and ascribed to have saved millions of massacres due to ongoing war.

National prejudice, religious frenzy, racial superiority etc have been causes of many wars from time to time; besides grabbing of fertile lands, properties and even women and wealth. The desire to maintain superiority in Arms, wealth, Nuclear devices and advanced technological know how, besides control of energy reserves among nations continues resulting into bullying of weaker nations and its consequent reaction, which we witness in the form of suffering people in Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia massacre and Afghanistan, African countries. Colonial powers have created troubles spots like Palestine, Kashmir etc in various corners of the globe and provide sufficient cause for armed resistance. In this game, the countries manufacturing arms also want to have a market for their industries and a big



business is thriving in the background. Thus many sections of people have opened their shops to take advantage of trouble spots and frequent media reports about huge exchange of money besides mafia groups playing their part have become a common affair. This State of affairs results into loose administrations underdevelopment, lack of education, and unemployment.

One of the main reasons of the derailment of youth from the mainstream is lack of moral education in their curricular. In earlier days a subject on "Diniyat" was taught in the primary classes, which gave insight into moral education; life stories of saints, stories with moral besides some master piece works like Sheikh Sadis "Gulistan Bostan", karima Nami-L-Haq & also Pand Nama, Ikhlāq-I-Mohsini, Masnavi Moulana Rum etc. (all in Persian) were taught in the young age. These lessons would remain inscribed in the mind of the child, and youth and would help in shaping his character. Similarly Pandits and Sikhs had their own moral building books. This subject has been withdrawn, with the result, the present set-up trains a student to be a professional without guidance in moral behaviour, which would make his life more blissful and helpful to the society. Thus we find present youth generally morally bankrupt with a few exceptions, who receive lessons from their parents at home. A reversion to the moral education with standard books on the subject duly translated into current medium is urgent necessity.

In this connection media has a great impact on young minds. Tv, Internet, Cinema, radio, newspapers could be channelised to highlight moral standards of saints and great personalities.

People at the helm need to be of strong character, as they serve as a role-model for the youth; besides teachers lay the foundation of the nations and need to set an example for their students. APR's need to be modified to depict the degree of impact, an employee makes. In Maharajas time the, application for job, had to indicate the performance of the responsibilities of his father which formed the decisive remark.



Corruption in all sectors need to be tackled with strong hand as youth get frustrated to find merit getting sacrificed. Merit needs to be made the criteria for employment / selection and the reservation of seats for backward / etc. needs to be abolished. Many students having low merit have been found turning mad in professional colleges and use unfair means to become detrimental to the society on passing out.

Preaching of moral aspects of respective religions need to be arranged for youth to improve their quality of life. Inter- religious dialogue with common points of agreement need to be arranged for reconciliation. Similarly international dialogue need to be arranged to solve conflicts between nations.

All energies, finances wasted in conflicts and war machines could be diverted towards development to improve the quality of life.

Peace needs to be brought at any price, as societies only thrive in peace. This was the lesson learnt by humanity after going through great world wars.

To conclude, I would quote a saying of the prophet Muhammed (P.B.H.) who asked his followers to help the people who suffer due to cruel ruler and also help the cruel ruler as well when asked, it is clear to us how to help the downtrodden but how can we help the cruel man? Forthwith came the reply : By stopping the cruel man to commit cruel offences.

On other occassion it was said, when you see somebody being harmed/committing sin stop him by using your hands; if it is not possible then stop him with your tongue and if still it is not possible, then frame an adverse opinion against him and this is weakest faith "Imam".

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# INDIA YOUTH IN THE MAELSTROM

R.K. Bharati\*

The Greek philosophers had much earlier realized the transitory nature of the so called established 'values' of the society. They had therefore declared that the world was in a flux.

There is marked difference in the recent past and present Indian context. The "sleepy East" has been woken violently into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and like a person woken from a nightmare, she does not understand where exactly she is. The growing number of old population had never been a feature of India due to abnormal death rate and short average span of life. Just in the pre partition India, the average age was 21 years. The youth of yester years (the aged ones of today) had never to confront so large a decaying senile population. Hence the reverence for the older generation, which had somehow to disappear, leaving the youth to fend for themselves. Not so today.

The consumer culture, which was the consequence of fast industrialization and availability of cheap means of comforts and luxuries, encouraged the impressionable youth to aspire for all these comforts, which their elder generation never thought of or if they did never expected it for themselves. They hid their desires under the pretext of fate. Destiny, the *karmic* fruit etc. and consoled themselves (albeit falsely) to put up with all the hardships they were groomed to face from their tender years.

The present day youth, exposed the modernism and TV culture, open sex, globalisation, easy availability of all possible means of entertainment coupled with media exploitation of their tender sensibilities, has come to one conclusion that every thing can be had for money. Nothing else. The elder generation channelised their unfulfilled desires into worship, music or rustic

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\* Journalist



means of recreation such as playing cards under a Bunyan tree, gossip or visiting relatives. They lived in the cocoon woven round them by their elders. But not so for the present day Indian youth.

TV has brought the whole world into their rooms. They know more than their once-upon-a-time-revered elders. Nay, the elders have been exposed before their children for lack of knowledge and it is no more their realm now. They are on the other hand a burden and a hindrance in the free march of the youth. Unconsciously the youth want them out of their path.

The elder generation had lived by some standards albeit out of date and worn out to sustain them. They called these imaginary and subjective theories "values". To prove this fallacy one can ask any number of elders what they meant by 'values'; their responses would be as many as their number and often more than that also! They agree on one point only that "the values are eternal". The youth of today rends as under the thin veil of ignorance that went for "wisdom" in earlier times.

Then there are cruel social realities. Boys in love with girls. They are not allowed to marry or mix openly. In most of the cases caste, religion and regional difference come in the way and in all this elders play a vital role to the disgust of the youth.

Political chicanery : almost every politician is accused of some scam or the other. The "honest" ones also acquire huge assets mysteriously. Why is it that no political leader of today is a poor man or woman like the late Lal Bahadur Shastri and then he too was over shadowed by the aristocratic Nehru! The present day politicians are exposed during election. When they use all foul (rarely fair) means to win elections. If they had a spirit of service for the society, why would they commit murders for winning an election? They ignite caste differences while swearing by Gandhi. They reserve all kinds of luxuries, high



salaries, pensions, perks, residential accommodations etc for themselves but grudge a rise of a few rupees for the salaried class. They divide people on religious and regional basis. (watch the statements of J&K leaders not to speak of other places). They distribute money and free wine to the same youth for garnering their votes and then expect them to observe the moral code, which is not there.

Similarly the youth has to 'pay his/her way' through the offices which trains him into the world of corruption. How can one expect morality from the victims of immorality; honesty from the victims of dishonesty?

The education system has become the big business of mafias. A poor man's ward cannot dream of becoming a doctor as the moneyed classes get admissions against a crore of rupees at present rates. Once appointed a doctor fleeces the people and thus alienates the youth. The IAS, IPS, IFS, Medicine and other examinations have become suspect due to leakage scams of question papers.

In J&K religious bigotry plays a big part. The Kashmiri Hindus were expropriated to ensure their exile. First by the so called 'secular' Sheikh (1950) and then by the (again secular) Congress in 1971, when the total landed property of Hindus was transferred to Muslims without any compensation or alternative rehabilitation for them.

Almost every department of society has these leaches to suck your blood. They fatten on you and expect you to be moral without doing it themselves. The tax regime of India is starkly defective. It reminds of the old ages when autocratic rulers broke the back of their subjects only to be wiped out of existence by others. It is a regime in which you tax the taxes also and "every loaf of bread" is taxed (as Churchill put it) not to speak of every drop of polluted water we drink. What is the logic of income tax on Government employees when the easier way was to give them lesser salaries? There is no reason to tax "dearness allowance" (DA) for it is given to fend against rising



prices. What is surcharge tax and then to cap it all why do the IT officials charge their "commission" for refunds and acceptance of declarations? Does it have a positive effect on the youth? I am afraid not.

Whatever wing of society you take, it is corrupt and dominated by mafias and gangs, be those of criminals, politicians or bureaucrats — the new breed of feudal lords of India.

Take justice. It is costly and delayed so much that some cases take 20-30 or more years to reach a deciding point and then appeals follow. We also see known criminals being set free which shatters the faith of the people in the laws that have outlived their utility. The legislators have no time to frame new laws or update old ones because they are busy feathering their own nests.

The details can go on and on ad infinitum. Therefore I do not believe that the youth has 'derailed from the mainstream'. It is the elder generation and particularly the politicians, bureaucrats, teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers and others, who wield power, have "derailed" the whole social system for their selfish ends and vested interests.

There is no "mainstream" today. Every political party calls its own agenda as "mainstream". There is no consensus on it. Therefore the remedies are also elusive.

Frankly India was better governed under the British and it has degenerated after independence. I am not sure but it seems that some kind of dictatorship or an unfortunate period of foreign domination is waiting in the wings. No preaching on 'moral values' will do because those who would have enforced these are dead and those who rule the roost and "moralise" are corrupt. They believe in "w.w.w" culture, which for them means 'wine, women and wealth'. How can the frustrated youth find their goal under their corrupt guidance? There is no role model for the Indian youth at present.

It seems that history might repeat itself and the "functioning anarchy" of India (as Galbraith put it) will bring

out a solution from the prevalent chaos, forced by circumstances as it did in ancient times when foreigners invaded, conquered and enslaved us for the leaders of those times also failed their people as have the present day ones.

Even Dame Nature can step in. There may be some geographical convulsion to redraw the map of the subcontinent (or the whole continent itself) as it did when the valley of Kashmir was submerged along with its rich culture as can still be seen under the water of the Wullar Lake or Indian Ocean or under the thick layers of snow over the Himalayas, which once were under waters.

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# DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAIN STREAM—CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Vijay Puri\*

In any nation youth necessarily forms the vanguard in most spheres of activity and it is not only essential but imperative at this critical juncture of its derailment, that its power be mobilized. What is required is immense involvement of youth in every sphere of social duties & responsibilities. Unfortunately the younger generation today faces challenges graver than any with which their fore fathers were confronted.

The present day youth finds itself on the cross roads, on derailment from the path of virtues **like truth, values, morality and commitment**. Let us not forget that it is hardly 60 years that this potentially rich and great nation of ours came out of the dangerous crises of slavery and has fallen into much more dangerous grave and is heading towards another crises which may turnout to be even worse than the slavery and these crises are the **CRISES** of present day youth's **DERAILMENT, RESTLESSNESS AND AIMLESS PURSUITS**. Let us not forget, at night fall the moon is the illuminator; at dawn it is the sun who illumines, righteousness illuminates the three words and **virtuous youth** is that illuminator, which light the whole sphere and proves the strength of any proud nation.

What ails our youth; why are they derailed? Who is responsible? Who has gone wrong and where? Yes, en-number questions, with various and scrupulous answers have taken place in every circle of intellectual society, schools and colleges, each blaming the other, claiming the clean image as the makers

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and shakers of society and there by conveniently washing their hands from responsibility.

Going down to the root cause of the cause of the student's derailment, it is pertinent to mention that despite the multidimensional growth in the educational sector, there has been a serious **Erosion of Value Oriented Education**, which would arm the educated youth to meet the challenges in a calm and firm manner. Development of character was the key objective of India's prestigious educational seats of learning like *Nalanda & Takshila*. I am tempted here to cite a few lines from a convocation of Oxford University UK in which their VC said "It was observed that Life's path is not primrose path at all, part of it, I will rather prefer to say most of its bristled with thorns, we lose oftener than we win in Life's journey unless one is **PRODIGY**." But instead of creating & chiseling **PRODIGIES**, we create just **PASS OUTS**.

Present education system is focused for :-

- (a) Cut throat competition resulting into adoption of fair and unfair means to succeed,
- (b) Fails to prepare the youth to adhere to the discipline. Discipline at any cost to teach them to obey so that they may command, listen so that they may speak. Population explosion, 100 crore people on one side and handful of jobs, both in technical and commercial fields has added further to the present day youth's mental turmoil and **DISHAHINTA** – Aimlessness. We in India are fond of miracles, we tend to look for extraordinary solutions for routine things, and the field of education has been no exception. We infact (Universities) had delinked our degrees completely from entry into the professional and the job market. To be true our crises is organically linked to increasing irrelevance of our process of certification leading to alienation of youth within and disenchantment of public outside.



Further in the wake of the mushroom growth of private institutions, and reckless setting up of private universities as a result of myopic legislation in some of our states (Chattisgarh and Uttranchal can be taken as cases of exception) most of these bodies are either too political or bureaucratic, thereby creating cynical attitude in the students resulting in the crisis of economy leading to the crises of educated youth. The proper word to describe present day youths condition is not **DERAILMENT** but **DEGENERATION**. I don't wish to be little either Govt. policies or norms of the acceptance, but will like to stress that this unthoughtful expansion has created fear of uncertainty in the minds of the youth, equipped with both skilled technical or attractive Management Degrees.

### **Remedial Measures :**

As I have earlier mentioned that youth necessarily forms the **vanguard** in most spheres of activity, it is necessary and urgently required to infuse burst of idealism and energy in the youth. In fact our youth constitute the immense reservoir of strength which if properly channalised and canalized can prove to be a source of great power to the nation

I would like to suggest some measure to help our youth from derailment and lead them towards proud and excellent citizenship. At this juncture I cannot resist the temptation to quote from a speech delivered by one of our great national leaders, **Shri Aurbindo Ghosh**, to the students of the **Bengal National College**, To quote, "**There are times in a Nation's history when providence, places before it one work, one aim, to which everything else, however, high and noble in itself, has to be sacrificed.**" To our youth this message is to **Government loud and clear** that they have to train their society and mother land. The myth of material glitter has to be replaced with the **INTELLECTUAL EXCELLENCE** as we live in the age of Science and Technology, and can no longer afford the luxury of mediocrity. Our politicians and bureaucrats and well meaning educationists must ensure that they avoid futility of



students getting involved in party politics and intrigues and focus on academic ability of highest order.

Despite technological advances and mechanization, defence is still, to a large extent, a matter of dogged physical endurance and courage as our Officers and Jawans recently proved in Kargil war in a magnificent manner and emerged victorious. It is as such suggest-able that all Schools and colleges irrespective of status of sectors i.e. Govt., Semi-Govt, private Sector, must enroll students both boys and girls in the organizations like **NCC, Scouting, Physical Fitness Scheme, NSS**. This will help in building strength both physical and mental in our youth. Along with physical fitness it will inculcate the **qualities of discipline, teammanship and leadership**, because what is required for our nation is not **individual achievement** of youth but also **corporate progress**.

There is also a great need of Spiritual Strength in our youth, which indeed is the main distinctive feature which distinguishes human beings from the myriad other forms of life, that exist on this planet. At the time of deep internal and external crises, we must be endowed with a new spiritual fervour leading to that dynamism where by we can overcome all turmoil and difficulties with a smile. When I seek to seek refuge in spirituality I in no way mean to refer merely to denominational religions, howsoever inspiring that may be. This implies in acceptance of divinity inherent in every human being and the noble goal of spiritual growth and realizing a concept that at once raises the dignity of individual and cuts across all narrow barriers and distinctions. As an humble educator I strongly feel spiritualism no way exist in protecting **RAMLALA TEMPLE at the cost of MOSQUE** or protecting **MOSQUE MASJID** by attacking mute **RAM IDOLS**. Indeed the principle of individual divinity and spiritual evolution is one which transcends even national barriers. In fact in major way it can lead our youth from **darkness to light and ignorance to knowledge**. The cloud of impenetrable darkness of hatred,



aimlessness has equally enveloped otherwise Cosmic Strength of our youth. In them there is neither firmness of purpose nor boldness of enterprises, neither courage of heart nor strength of mind, but deep rooted **frustration, antipathy and morbid desire to acquire by hook and crook**. But there is hope, let us kindle that in our youth by leading them with **self examples than perceptions**.

To sum up my effort on this thought provoking problem of derailment of youth and suggestive measures to curb it, I'll like to appeal to our youth that on one side, new India is saying we should have full freedom in whatever we do; after all it is my life, on the other, our traditional India wishes to say to its youth, you are answerable to us, hence give up your self frustration, for the good of the many. On the other hand, new India is saying; if we only adopt **western ideas, western language, western food, western dress and western manners**, we shall be a superior race and as strong and powerful as western nation; on the other hand let us as **teachers, parents and social servants** say to them, "**Fools by others ideas never become intellects**" let us not lose our prestigious identity of **INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE**.

The **physical, mental and spiritual and intellectual dimensions of our youth** when equipped and channalised properly, there won't be any room for **cynism, defeatism, boredom or depression**. There are always numerous avenues for national service which may not hit newspaper headlines, which will provide opportunity to our youth and in return they can be of immense help to nation in bringing communal harmony, and generate process of economic reconstruction and development by **ON RAILING ON TRACK** their efforts and leading their nation to **EXCELLENCE**.

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# DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAIN STREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Prof. Virender Gupta\*

Our youth is not derailed from the national mainstream. In fact it is the elder generation that is neglecting the national interest and is merely engaged in its own self progress. It has given preference to its own well being over the national cause and even does not hesitate to sacrifice the national interest for its own upliftment. The prevailing corruption, degradation of moral values, decline in national character and directionless political system that too run by self seekers, corrupt and morally sick politicians are the contributions of the older generations, not the youth. As such there is a need to infuse nationalism in the people by and large and Indianise them.

Youth of today has extreme love for the country and wants to serve the nation with full dedication and conviction. But the prevailing system does not allow him to do so. However, the basic factors that are responsible for not proper development of the younger generations are being elaborated below :

After independence our leaders did not set the high targets and goals that were to be attained by the country and that could have inspired the younger generation. The leadership of the country could not sustain the zeal and enthusiasm that the country had at the time of its independence. It merely concentrated its efforts in raising the slogans of democracy and secularism and even some times sacrificed national interest while elevating its personal image in the world.

Our education system, after independence, remained the same as was established by the British rulers with the aim to

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produce baboos (clerks and bureaucrats) who were loyal to British empire and served the cause of British rule in India. The present education system producing a youth, who is careerist, worried for his own progress and prosperity with little care for the nation. There is no scope for learning Indian culture, traditions and Indian philosophy. Infact, in the present education system the Indian values are condemned as retrograde and backward looking concepts. Students do not study Indian ethos and moral values. These things are being sacrificed in the name of so called secularism.

There is no provision in the educational curriculum to study the biographies of national leaders and national heroes who have inspired the people of the country from time to time. Youth do not know even the names of the heroes of the recent past who participated in the freedom struggle against the British rule, except for a few names, and their contribution in the freedom movement. This is an irony that youth are not being taught about the glorious past of the nation and the inspiring leadership that was provided by great heroes. As a result youth do not feel proud of Indian past history, her culture and tradition, and does not know about the national heroes to get inspired from them. Youth do not feel proud of being Indian. They are not being taught about their obligations and commitments towards the country and the society.

There is rampant corruption in the society and in our political system. Criminals and gangsters involved in multiple murders and other heinous criminal acts are MLAs, MPs and even Chief Ministers. The governing machinery, money and muscle power are frequently and nakedly used to win the elections. General masses vote on communal and caste factors without having least concern about the creditability of the candidates. Bureaucrats and police force work in nexus with the politicians and criminals. Those, involved in the relief works for flood and other natural calamity affected people, do not hesitate to siphon out the fund meant for



relief purposes. Honest engineers, bureaucrats and police personnel have hard days, their lives are always at risk, they work in utter humiliation and are facing frequent transfers even dangers of their elimination. As such the corrupt political system and bureaucracy and morally degraded society engulfed by caste, regional and communal appeals instead of inspiring a youth to be a patriot and work for national cause, infact, discourages him. When youth enters a profession he possesses an extreme desire of serving the country with full devotion and bring a change in the system and the society. But he finds himself alone because of the up hills and hindrances created in his way he slowly and steadily loses the enthusiasm and becomes the component of the system. There is no role model before the youth to follow.

The future of the nation depends upon the youth. The elder generation should also be serious about its obligations towards the country and the nation and towards our new generation. We have to reform ourselves if we have to bring the younger generation on the right track. The well meaning individuals in the society have to take up the responsibility for awakening the society and youth in particular about their responsibilities. Even though we may not be able to provide the youth a good political or social system or unable to set a very good examples of our personal life, we must try to provide them a good education system that inculcates in them good values and virtues. We have to introduce teaching of moral values in curriculum. The youth must be educated about the Indian history culture and traditions. He should know about the national heroes and their sacrifices for the nation. If it is done, the youth will carve out its own path by taking inspiration from the history and Indian culture and take the nation to achieve the highest possible goals. The society has to develop cells at the grass-root level where youth can learn the social and moral ethics and involve himself in the growth and development of the society at that level. Democratization



and decentralization of the administrative and educational systems are very essential for the involvement of the youth in the development and creative activities. His involvement in the creative activities at the grass-root level and in the educational institutions would go a long way in exploiting the inherent human resource in the youth and channelise them for the betterment of the society.

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# **YOUTH MUST WORK HARD TODAY FOR BETTER TOMORROWS**

**O P Sharma\***

**Youth dreams and it dares too. The young men and women have vision of better tomorrow. It is they who have potential to translate their dreams into reality. They are bold enough to squarely face the challenges of life and seize opportunities to forge ahead.**

The youth has always been on the forefront in almost all the revolutionary changes and brought about radical reforms across the globe. Throughout all ages, youth power has asserted itself and invariably produced results.

During India's freedom struggle, it was youth who spearheaded the movement under inspiring leadership and led the nation to attainment of independence. A typical case is one of our freedom struggle. During this movement led by Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the young men and women played a crucial role in shaking off foreign yoke and achieving freedom for the country.

Thereafter, these youth set upon the task of nation-building and get this country its due status of dignity in the comity of nations.

## **Pivotal Role**

They are presently engaged in the socio-economic transformation of the society and pull out the Indian teeming millions out of poverty, backwardness, illiteracy and put them on path of progress and prosperity.

**Whenever, the vast energies of youth are properly channelised by the dynamic and inspiring leadership towards desirable goals, they tread on the tough road with grit**

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\* *Journalist*



**and determination. They struggle on the set agenda or mission and definitely bag proud attainments.**

India has registered tangible achievements in a committed largest democratic framework as a global economy, nuclear power and vast reservoir of scientific and technological manpower in the world.

### **Daunting Task Ahead**

In the post-independence era, it is youth who have deepened democracy and forged India ahead on the economic, scientific, technology, spiritual and other fronts.

As long as the youth are given proper education, infused morals and nurtured in spiritual value system with modern outlook and scientific temper, sky is the limit for the youth. They have courage to lead the society in proper direction. They do bold experiments with new ideas and institutions and lead the society to new frontiers.

The youth constitute of the bulk of population in India and hold key to the fate in political, economic, social as also science and technological arena. With voting age lowered to 18 years, their participation in the political affairs has gone up. Young women's involvement is also gradually growing.

### **High Moral Values**

The education system has to be suitably tailored to discover and develop their personal resources of body, mind and spirit and thus better equip themselves to live the life of mature, creative and responsible members of the civil society.

Youth can grow in an atmosphere of freedom. It is through free activity, freely undertaken, that the best in the young will come out. They must be guided, not pushed, must be gently led and not prodded. They must be properly chiselled for building character and initiative, to become physically, emotionally and mentally healthy and disciplined, morally strong, and socially helpful.

It is essential for the spiritual, social and political leadership to set glorious examples before the youth so



that they get inspired and adopt the lofty principles of life. The education system has to be re-oriented to impart besides academic and scientific knowledge, the patriotic and moral values.

### **Jobs For All**

The education has to be job-oriented so that the degree do not turn out to be mere "piece of paper" without any value for work-seekers. The human resource is a serious business and the nation has to put its best brains for manpower planning. Blue print plans have to be drawn up for training of requisite number to technical and professional hands for the country.

A depressing picture is that presently the universities and other seats of learning are churning out young boys and girls with high sounding degrees but without job market demands. The result is ever mounting figures of unemployed and unemployable youth in the country. This country needs suitable specialists, professional, technocrats and others for developmental projects and welfare works in the fast growing economy.

The youth, who are misled by anti-social and anti-national elements, are driven towards nefarious activities. The ill-educated and jobless can easily fall prey to anti-social working or get attracted to fundamentalists' propaganda and even take to terrorist activities. This problem of terrorism has to be tackled by adopting a suitable strategy and strong and sustained global action. One dimension is to draw them out from militancy through rehabilitation and gainful employment.

### **Bright Future**

One serious issue is that due to high technological and modern media of mass communication, the impact of alien culture and way of life. Both the print as well as electronic medium of radio, television, films and even internet are posing potential danger to social and moral fabric of our society. While we have to be vigilant against rise of violence, lowering



of moral values, we have to deepen the commitment of our youth to rich cultural heritage and spiritual attainments.

In the words of Swami Vivekananda, the youth should “awake, arise and rest not till goal is achieved”. And the one goal for India is to play role of divine guru for spiritual enlightenment, high moral standards and happiness in life to entire humanity.

**The youth have to be made to adopt scientific temper, modern outlook and nationalistic spirit in global perspective to meet the challenges of our times. The youth have to make optimal use of vast power to secure safe and bright future of India and the world at large.**

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# PROBLEMS, ASPIRATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF ADOLESCENTS

**Manjula Raman\***

Adolescence is a time of change and continuity and in many cases the change can be discontinuous. Adolescence is a period of intense growth not only physically but morally and intellectually. It is understandable that it is a time of confusion and upheaval for many teens. Hence this is the most critical period in the human beings growth. Young growing individuals are suspended between childhood and adulthood. Despite some negative perceptions of adults, teens are often energetic, thoughtful idealistic and have a deep interest in what's fair and right. So although it can be a period of conflict between adults and teens. Adolescence is also a time to help adolescents grow into the distinct individual they will become.

Understanding adolescence : When exactly does adolescence start well, everybody is having different views – there are early bloomers, late arrivals, speedy developers and slow but steady growers. Many kids announce the onset of adolescence with a dramatic change in behavior. They begin to separate out from parents and teachers and begin to become more independent. They become more aware of how others specially the peers see them and desperately try different looks and identities and try to fit into their peer cult. When they are not accepted it could be very devastating.

One of the common stereotypes of adolescence is the rebellious, wild teen continually at odds with teachers and parents and there are others who get into a shell. In both cases the adolescent is looking for independence and they seem to have different opinion from their parents and teachers. They form their

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own moral code and many who were blindly conforming to the rules suddenly begin assert themselves and their opinion. This is the time we need to look into ourself and question, "Am I overbearing? "Do I listen to the opinion of the teenagers?". "Do I allow the adolescents opinion and taste to differ from my own."

### **Characteristics of Adolescence**

Adolescence is a time of rapid physical changes when a child becomes conscious of his/her physical growth and appearance. It is also the time of explosion of raw energy which is in abundance. If harnessed properly, the adolescent achieves great heights. It is also the time for curiosity which often leads to confusion when his/her questions and queries are not answered. The growing child simmers with struggle for independence, he has his own individualistic thinking and views and has a very strong desire to be recognized and be counted. Adolescence is a time when they require a certain amount of privacy because it is a time to dream of a rosy future, a time to plan for a successful future and a time when every adolescent desires to prove his worth. It is also a time when he befriends the opposite sex. All his/her thoughts get stifled if he/she does not enjoy a certain amount of private time and he/she often gets disturbed if he/she is constantly watched over by his/her parents and elders. However, the parents and teachers have to be watchful of certain warning signs. A certain amount of change may be normal in adolescence, but too drastic or long lasting a switch in a child's personality or behaviour may signal real trouble and may need help from a counselor, doctor or a psychologist. Some of the warning signs are :-

Extreme weight gain or loss, sleep problems, rapid and drastic changes in personality, sudden change in friends, skipping school continually, falling grades, talk or even jokes about suicide, signs of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use and run-ins with the law.

### **Role of School**

School is the best place for adolescent. They are in the company of other adolescents and it is a place that provides



maximum opportunities. The teacher play a very important role in the lives of these young people. The teacher is a guide, friend, philosopher and to be special the teacher needs to be sensitive to the needs of the adolescent specially of adolescent female students. A teacher disseminates vital information, guides the youngster on growth so that he/she understands the physical changes he/she is undergoing. He/she has to satisfy his/her curiosity and help the child to overcome his/her awkwardness about his physical and emotional State. The teacher has to help students overcome serious flaws by counseling, monitoring and appreciating achievements. He has to give adequate opportunities to the students to express himself and not to be overbearing and reprimand him for minor aberrations. Its also the duty of the school and teachers to provide adequate opportunities for both sexes, to interact during projects, seminars, decision making and other curricular activities to promote healthy interaction and understanding. Ensuring participation in vigorous games and sports channelises raw energy and promotes good health. The school should give opportunities for hobbies and creative work. Every teacher needs to be sensitized to the special needs of the girl students. It is of paramount importance that the teacher provides guidance and counseling on the use of drugs and prevention of diseases and observance of self control in sexual behavior.

### **‘Parenting’ Adolescent**

Since schools are extended homes, hence teachers have to play the role of surrogate parents and needs to acquire certain skills in dealing with adolescent.

### **Educate yourself**

Read books about adolescence. Think back on your own teen years. Remember your struggles with acne or your embarrassment at developing early—or late. The more you know, the better you can prepare your student.

### **Talk to the teen Early Enough**

Answer the early questions your child has both bodies, such as the differences between boys and girls and where babies



come from. But don't overload your child with information—just answer their questions. The earlier you open the lines of communication on these subjects, the better chance you have of keeping them open throughout the teen years.

### **Put Yourself in the Adolescent's Place**

Practice empathy with your growing child. Help your child understand that it's normal to be a bit concerned or self-conscious. Tell your child it's OK to feel grown-up 1 minute and like a little child the next.

### **Pick your Battles**

If teenagers want to dye their hair, paint their fingernails black, or wear funny clothes, it may be worth thinking twice before you object. Teens want to shock adults and it's a lot better to let them do something temporary and harmless; leave the objections to things that really matter, like drugs and alcohol.

### **Maintain Your Expectations**

Teens will likely act unhappy with expectations their parents and teachers place on them. However, they usually understand and need to know their parents and teachers care enough about them to expect things from them. Appropriate grades, behaviour and adherence to the rules are important standards to maintain. If parents and teachers have appropriate expectations, teens will likely try to meet them.

#### **1. Inform Your Adolescent—and stay Informed Yourself**

Adolescence is often a time of experimentation, and sometimes that experimentation, includes risky behaviours. Don't avoid the subjects of sex and drug, alcohol, and tobacco use; discussing these things openly with an adolescence before he or she is exposed of them increases the chance that the child will act responsibly when the time comes. Ask Parents to know their child's friends—and know your child's friends' parents. Regular communication between the parents of adolescents can go a long way towards creating a safe environment for all the children in a peer group. Parents can help each other keep track of the kids' activities without making the kids feel that they're being watched.



## **Respect the Adolescent's Privacy**

Most, understandably, have a very hard time with this one. Parents and teachers may feel that anything a child does is their business. But to help your teen become a young adult, you'll need to grant some privacy. If you notice warning signs of trouble, then you might want to invade your child's privacy until you get to the heart of the problem. But otherwise, it's a good idea to back off.

## **Monitor what your student sees and reads.**

Television shows, magazines and books, the Internet—kids have access to tons of information. Be aware of what your child is watching and reading. Don't be afraid to set limits on the amount of time spent in front of the computer or the T.V. know what your child is learning from the media and who he or she may be communicating with over the Internet.

## **Make appropriate rules**

Rules for an adolescent should be age appropriate. Reward your teen for being trustworthy. And does an adolescent always have to go along on family outings? You decide what your expectations are, and don't be insulted when your growing child doesn't always want to be with you anymore. Think back you probably felt the same way about your mom and dad.

When we see the young adolescents a question seems to always nag us 'Are children maturing too early?' Well life we all know is all about change, without change and attendant maturity, there would be no life at all. It is thus inseparable from life. To discuss whether children are maturing too early we must first determine our scales of maturity because a living being unknown to us will continue to mature all the time and will arrive at definitive stations in life eg from infancy to childhood to adolescence to adulthood and beyond. The early maturing of children today is a matter of perception.

It is indeed a very difficult question to answer as it virtually amounts to drawing comparison between the young people of today and those of yesterday, because the circumstances and the



environment is quite dissimilar to make a cogent comparative analysis. Nevertheless no one can deny that today's child is a lot different than those of the proceeding generations. He is alert, much better informed, more confident with better comprehension and with a skeptical streak and is clearer in the objectives that he/she will like to attain with the Radio, the T.V., the Computers and the internet and whole lot of information that rains down upon him/her through various media. Many a times a child of today can make even an adult of today feel ignorant and left behind especially those whose exposure of technology driven information is low. Unlike times gone by you cannot, perhaps, push a child of today into matrimony before he/she feels actually ready for it. Growing children are demonstrating great desire to break free of the umbilical cord of their families by taking up jobs at earlier ages and thus become independent. Physically, the growing child also appears better nourished and thus having better dreams. The increasing societal recognition of their abilities and role in the nation building stands recognized through voting rights. The young today have become far more discerning which seems to point to their gaining maturity rather early but with it there is also a darker side. His taking to drugs, his inability to withstand rough and tumble of life, his obsessive fondness for material comforts, often makes him callous to the needs of others. His sensitivity is showing traces of numbness. He is becoming self centered, so, if on the one hand he is gaining upon the proceeding generation and knowledge and on the other he is losing out on the true values that will enrich human life. True maturity demands an attitude, where, pursuing one's ambitions the values are not lost sight of. Even physically there is nothing to suggest that there has been a quantum change in physical maturity today. So as I close I am inclined to believe that while today's children are more ambitious, more self driven, more competitive but they are also more apathetic to others. On balance perhaps they are clever may even be street smart and intelligent but true maturity is a good distance away.

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# INDIAN YOUTH DERAILED OR DRIFTED?

Professor K.L. Bhatia\*

Today, the Indian youth is not derailed rather he is drifted as wanderer because of circumstances. To call the Indian youth as derailed is calling him a sinner that is a standing libel on human nature of the Indian youth. One may have to address a question: what is derail; what is drift; and, what is the cause of separation between derail and drift? Derail is in the negative sense, because in derailment deviation is inherent that may be the fountainhead of deviant behaviour. Whereas, drift is in the positive form, because drift occurs due to aimlessness; lack of motivation; proper guidance and direction. However, in drift the wanderer youth is always in quest of some goal; aim of life. The wanderer youth puts all his efforts and endeavors with full vigour and zeal to reach the destination. Our contribution ought to be to propel his yearning energies so that he reaches his destination as a successful wanderer.

What makes the youth drift-wanderer? It is home and society both. Whatsoever he learns from cradle to grave he learns the lessons of Sanskaras from the lap of the mother to the lap of mother. Therefore, the role of mother ought to be nurturing as well as nourishing encouraging to the child making him Vivekananda, Chatarpati Shivajee, Samarath Ramdass, etc. Vivekananda, Chatarpati Shivajee and Samarath Ramdass were not Vivek or Chatarpati or Samarath on their own but due to their mothers who instilled values in them to make them as Vivek or Chatapati or Samarath. Lack of values alone may be responsible for drift.

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Lessons of Sanskaras may be of sorrowfulness or of joy or of glory and power or of the radiance of the farsightedness of aim/goal of life. Youth who lives in confusion lives in vacuum and unnecessarily weaves notorious thoughts around him and makes castles in the air. Youth has to be with some goal/aim of life, and minus that he may be aimless escapist-wanderer. And, as such, the role of mother in the formidable stage of the youth is imperative.

Youth has to realize what he has to do and contribute to self, society and nation. If he realizes in right perspective then he may be successful in not allowing his weaknesses to overpower him. He has to excel in his potentialities. Every youth has hidden potentialities within him, and he has to be propelled to excel in the potentialities. And for that he may be made to read good literature. Good literature is helpful in developing the personality, the perceptions, the vision, the thinking process, communicative skills, oratory, civility, languages, etc. Good literature shows real path. But to reach to real path one may have to work hard, and one can alone tread that path smilingly where angles may even be scared to tread. This path is full of challenges. One who reaches to his destination while encountering as well combating challenges is the real youth in the real perspective. Values of our heritage ought to be imbibed in the youth, because that develops love, compassion, harmony, social harmony, equity and equality, and divinity. Let us stop making perpetual mistakes making the Indian youth to drift. In this brevity lies the beauty of the Indian youth who needs to be adorned and not ignored.

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## THEY REPRESENT BRIGHT TODAY, BRIGHTER FUTURE

Pushp Saraf\*

Have young men and women gone adrift? It seems to be a question as old as the earth. Every generation, it appears, looks back and comes to the conclusion as if there is something amiss with the one following it. "In our days we would do this and that. Now they are not at all bothered. They just while away their time," is the oft-repeated complaint.

This writer humbly disagrees with this perception. What in my view one needs to appreciate is that young persons in every age have their own dreams and aspirations that they want to achieve. If they find an ideal person in the generation before them they try to emulate him or her. If not, they strive to chalk out their course of action. The accent is on exploring new pastures and if one looks one will find that this is true of youth in every age.

I will resist the temptation of quoting from the works of scholars and philosophers who have dwelt at length on the wonders of the youth and infinite energy it carries. Instead, one will throw a glance around to come across numerous examples of young persons having made their mark in the world.

My opinion that it becomes easier for boys and girls to realise their ambitions if they have a rallying point based on the study of different periods. In recent times an intelligent Jawaharlal Nehru, a determined Sardar Patel and even a fiery Subhash Chandra Bose, for instance, found a common meeting ground in Mahatma Gandhi. No freedom struggle has caught

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\* *Journalish*



the fancy of the youth across the globe like the one in India for its adherence to non-violence and massive support to it by the young blood considered so uncharacteristic of it in the period of World Wars. It was possible because of the Mahatma's magnetic personality again aberrantly built on the foundations of truth, humility and simplicity.

The Mahatma remains a great example of a young person finding his way and creating a permanent niche for himself.

In sharp contrast, Hitler and Mussolini too fired the imagination of the youth in their own way but their method in the end turned out to be a bit let-down and they themselves have been confined to the dustbin of history.

Kalpana Chawla, a small-town girl from Haryana, fired the imagination of the youth across the country by her daring although fatal space shuttle. Sania Mirza presently has become the national heroine for her age-group. Young officers and soldiers laid down their precious lives during the Kargil war moving millions of people who joined their funeral processions regardless of whether they knew them or not ---- something that happened for the first time in the country which has often withstood invasions after Independence. Gen N. C. Vij of Kachi Chhawani has been one of the best Army generals of the country.

Singers and film stars in their twenties and thirties have changed the mood of the nation and given it a justified feeling that it has come a long way during the last more than five decades. Working silently behind the scene, the scientists have converted India into a formidable nuclear power on the one hand and a home of white and green revolutions on the other.

It will be found that in every period young men perform different roles. Some blaze the new trail. There are some who are bewitched by baser human instincts which is proven by the presence of Mafia dons even today. On balance, however, there is no doubt that good has always outwitted the bad.

What has to be realized is that the times change. Along with them value systems too acquire new dimensions. If "Kurta



and payajama" or "saree, salwar, kameez" were more in use at one time, unisex jeans are the dominant attire currently. Just before 1947 the concerned youth had freedom as the immediate target keeping in the mind the principles of self-respect and dignity of citizens as a whole. Immediately after that, the new generation that came up was seized with the idea of building a strong nation --- luckily for the country Nehru could act as effective link between the past and the present for nearly 30 years.

Today there is a feeling that the country has somewhat settled down. That is why there is song and laughter created by sport, theatre and films. Simultaneously, there is academic excellence, top medical and engineering professionalism and unprecedented information technology progress that has sent the country's stock high in international markets and made its youth the envy of the rest of the world.

In Jammu and Kashmir, young men and women have made handsome contribution at all times. In my own family I can cite a couple of examples. Grandfather Mulk Raj Saraf, who lost his parents at an early age, waged a war with the Maharaja to give the State its first newspaper way back in 1924. Father Om Prakash Saraf provided the State the first unit nationalist party (Praja Socialist Party) in the fifties and uncles Ved Rahi and Sat Saraf moved out of Jammu to brush shoulders with the best in Bollywood and Delhi journalism, respectively.

Sheikh Abdullah as the educated young leader had first instilled the confidence in the Kashmir youth that they could take on the feudal order and then went on to assume a broader nationalist outlook to strike a lasting relationship with New Delhi which continues to guide the National Conference in its approach and philosophy.

Dr Karan Singh had left a comparatively cozy job as Sadar-e-Riayasat to become the youngest Cabinet minister under Indira Gandhi. Raman and Sagar has now become a



legend in film world with much younger Vidhu Vinod Chopra closely following him.

Today there are scores of boys and girls from the State who are knocking at the doors of fame and fortune in the media and other spheres in tougher pastures. Rajendra pawar as the founder of the National Institute of Information Technology and Vijay Mahajan, a leading management expert, have won wide acclaim in their respective spheres of activity. One is sure there will be many more who have performed equally well in the United States and elsewhere. Qazi Touqeer, a boy from Srinagar, has established by his performance in popular musical programme, "Fame Gurukul", that given proper training and exposure he and his peer group can match the best anywhere.

It is true that militancy has spoiled the State's scene somewhere. But if one goes by the much-publicized assertion of Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front chairman Yasin Malik that "romanticisation of militancy" has led them "into a trap" one will be inspired to notice awareness that something has gone wrong somewhere. It is hardly surprising that the majority of the local youth have dropped the gun to enter into a dialogue for peace and conciliation.

There are more IT and media professionals, sport enthusiast and academicians in the State than ever before (their number represents much more than proportionate increase in population). The only sphere which is not attracting the intelligent and conscientious young persons is politics which is extremely unfortunate. The reason for this is the deeply entrenched impression that there is vast difference in what parties and politicians preach and what they exactly do.

Motivated by the ideal of public service the overwhelming number of boys and girls find it unacceptable to employ money and muscle power to reach the corridors of power. This is not without irony. For, top leader of all State parties—Ghulam Nabi Azad, Omar Abdullah, Mahmooba Mufiti and Nirmal Singh on the mainstream spectrum and Shabir Shah,



Mirwaiz Moulavi Umar Farooq, Bila Lone, Sajjad Lone and Yasin Malik on the other side of the fence ----- are mostly a young lot.

It is for these leaders too to think why the educated class in their age-groups is looking in the other direction. As I see it, the majority of youth by following healthy professional pursuits will gradually influence politics as well. As an example, we already have an economist Manmohan Singh ruling on behalf of a party crowed equally with sycophants and hard-boiled politicians.

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# DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAIN STREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

**Kamal Hak\***

India like many other countries in the world has been struggling against a problem, which defies normal conventional solution. The problem of religious fundamentalism and its capability of attracting the youth for treading a separatist path is an issue confronting many progressive societies around the world these days. In India the emergence of religious fundamentalism as tool for achieving political goals has seen the country being ripped apart in Kashmir by the perpetrators of sectarian terrorism. That these long and persistent violent campaigns are being nurtured, accomplished and sustained essentially by that segment of populace, which normally should have been more concerned about their social, materialistic and economic sustenance should be a matter of grave concern and debate not only among the political establishments of the country but in the civil society as well. The fatal attraction that the youth of Kashmir continue to demonstrate for extremist actions clearly reflects their romanticism for a rebellious mindset. It also reflects the failure of social and political institution in preventing the budding youth from alienation. The drifting away of the youth from the respectable mainstream also represent the decay in the robustness of the different organs of the State and society.

The resentment against the national mainstream prominently visible amongst the alarmingly large number of Kashmiri youth can't be viewed in isolation. The alienation of such a mass of people can never be a manifestation of

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\* *Journalist*



frustrations borne out of lack of gainful or vocational opportunities. It can also never be an instant reaction to so-called Indian imperialistic designs on a territory, which historically has had social, cultural, physical, economical and political relationship with rest of the country. One also needs to understand and analyze the administrative atmosphere of Jammu and Kashmir State before the onset of militancy there and compare the same with that as prevalent in some other states of the country at that time. The economical conditions, availability of avenues for gainful employment, the educational and other opportunities coupled with unhindered freedom of religious and political expression available to the Kashmiri youth do not suggest any discrimination or persecution forcing them into rebellion. A cursory glance at the existing socio-economic and political dispensation in many parts of India, even now, would reveal a situation immensely pathetic in comparison with that of Kashmir and should, therefore be enough reason for the youth to revolt. It is perhaps the resilience of the civil society and its proud nationalism, which is acting as a strong deterrent against any youthful aberration. That a significant percentage of Kashmiri youth have convinced themselves of the injustice done towards them and chosen the path tangentially opposite the mainstream warrants a more serious analysis of the problem.

The question of Kashmiri youth derailing from the mainstream has been defying answer for a long time. The political commentators and social scientists have been unsuccessfully struggling with the plausible explanation for this phenomenon that has assumed dangerous sectarian characteristics endangering not only the secular fabric of the country but also the security apparatus of the nation. Unfortunately, the political compulsions of pan Indian realities have ensured the malady is not seen in a proper perspective. Any attempt to honestly dissect the factors responsible for the rebellious attitude of Kashmir youth is always forced under the carpet for the consideration of a larger national interest.



The reluctance of the Indian State to directly confront the Kashmiris with a candid indictment is often seen by them as a national weakness and helps them to draw sustenance for their movement. The Indian State's complacency in calling spade a spade helps the Kashmiri youth to build a conviction about the righteousness of their stand.

Many commentators trace the alienation of Kashmiri youth to the supposedly rigged election of 1989 in Kashmir. The contention being the activists of Muslim United Front, having failed to realize their political aspirations through legal means crossed over to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir in an act of disillusionment. It is true 1989 elections in Jammu and Kashmir proved to be a turning point in the separatist politics of the valley as a hitherto silent undercurrent of dissent against India suddenly manifested itself in a violent orgy of selective killings, intimidation and revolt. However, the commentators have failed to appreciate that a sudden, spontaneous and unprecedented widespread public expression of a revolt and mass uprising can't be an instant reaction to a particular incident, in this case the rigged elections. It has to be a culmination of long years of creating adequate support structures, foolproof logistics and systematic planning. It has also been the reflection of mindset hardened over a large number of years.

The Kashmir problem needs to be viewed dispassionately for understanding its complexities. The alienation of Kashmiris is essentially the result of India's failure on three fronts with respect of Kashmir. The accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India has been proven to be a legally tenable act but Indian nation has never been able to convince the Kashmiris about this fact. Instead of firmly articulating the legalities and irreversibility of Kashmir's accession to India, the Indian State has been, most of the times, apologetic about this historical fact. It has not only played into the pan-Islamic sentiments of the Muslim majority people but has many times unwittingly contributed to the separatist ideology. A vast majority of Kashmiri people has



been brought up on the theory of 1947 partition and State's accession to India, thereafter, being a part of the great Indian imperialistic designs on the sub-continent. No wonder, the people tend to believe continuation of the State as a part of India as great injustice perpetrated on the people by a Hindu majority country. The youth see it as an infringement of their political and religious rights. The absence of any honest and dedicated Indian effort to correct this perspective has seen a large number of kashmiri people distancing themselves from the national mainstream.

One also needs to sympathize with the Indian nation as it is fighting a menace of Islamic religious fundamentalism, which is confronting many countries in the world now. This brings us to the second important reason behind the uprising of Kashmiri youth. The Muslims all across the world, by and large, have always sought to entertain a pan-Islamic identity. They have also been taught the Islam is the superior religion. This has often put the Muslim youth across the world on a confrontationist course and Kashmiri youth have also allowed themselves to be drawn into this extremist ideology. They have also traditionally been tutored to see any Indian initiative in Kashmir as a part of attempted Hindu dominance. The local psyche has been so thoroughly conditioned towards this thought process that all nationalist non-Muslims of the valley are still referred to as Jan Sanghi, a local acronym for a fundamentalist. Kashmir has thrown a greatest challenge on the country's secular credentials, one of the basic pillars of Indian nation hood, yet, the State has failed to adequately respond to the growing sectarian thought process in the valley and has allowed it to assume menacing proportions. The State has been a mute witness to the process of fundamentalist indoctrination of the youth who refuse to appreciate the difference between India as a country and Hinduism as a philosophy. For them going away from the national mainstream is to walk away from, what they believe, the Hindu dominance.



Finally, India's inability to effectively combat the Pakistan's influence on the Kashmir politics has encouraged the youth to look towards it for moral, ideological and monetary support. Also, in the eyes of ordinary Kashmiri, India's failure to adequately respond to Pakistan's machinations in Kashmir has made it to look a weaker State in comparison with Pakistan. Despite the history and the evidence to the contrary, Kashmiri's have always thought of Pakistan as a stronger nation than India. Their belief in greater Islamic nation hood might have contributed in building this belief but lack of adequate Indian response has emboldened them to dare one of the largest countries in the world.

Today, India is being trampled by the acts of mindless terrorism that is fast spreading its wings across the country and whose footprints can be easily traced to Kashmir. There will be no easy solutions to the problem and bringing back the alienated youth to the mainstream is going to be arduous task. Nevertheless, a beginning has to be made somewhere. As on today, it is the Kashmiris who are setting the rules of the game. As a first step towards correcting the attitudes, India could begin well by being firm in establishing who calls the shots. The Kashmiri's romanticism for any thing Pakistani also needs to be firmly shattered by suitably responding to its overtures on the State. Finally, the most difficult task that needs to be accomplished is to make clear to the fanatically driven people that no one is born either circumcised or with a thread around his neck.

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# PROBLEMS BEFORE YOUTH

Avatar Bhat\*

India is the second largest populated country in the world. It has also the largest youngest population. Nearly 43 percent of the population in India is of the youth.

They constitute an immense reservoir of strength, which if properly canalized can prove to be a source of great power to the nation. Indeed, it is these young Indians who will soon be called upon to provide leadership in all walks of life.

However, this young generation is today confronted with many problems graver than any with which their forefathers were confronted.

These problems have erupted as a consequence of various policies adopted by successive Governments in the country. Socio-economic disparities, nepotism and favoritism in employment sector have immensely contributed to the plight of youth in the country. As their problems remain unaddressed, unheard they resort to anti-social and anti-national activities.

Finding it difficult to have suitable job opportunities, they flee other countries, thus causing a great loss of human resources.

As youth constitutes a sizeable number of Indian population, they in day to day life face a lot of problems related to employment, health, education, social and cultural issues. Moreover, as India is a multi-cultural country with a number of religions, languages having varied culture and different ways of life, the youth also faces problems related to social harmony, integration, violence and hatred at some point of time. In certain parts of time there is the acute problem of drug addiction and health problems related to AIDS and other dreaded diseases.

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\* Journalist



Unemployment is one of the major problems being faced by the youth in India at present. According to available figures a total of about 31 million are non workers in the age group of 25-34 comprising 22 million in rural and nine million in urban areas. Of these over two million are males and 30 million are females.

The another major problem facing our youth is health. Every human being has a right to be healthy derived from his basic human right to life. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNESCO) has stated this in a report in programmes for youth but this remains an ideal far from reality. In India, health at no stage of life can be claimed as right. So the youth in this country faces many health related problems including the dreaded disease like AIDS.

Lack of educational opportunities is also a problem confronted to our youth. Though India has a large number of schools and educational institutions, still according to a latest survey, there are about 80 million illiterates in the age group of 15-35. There is also the lack of skill development and vocational institutions in the country for the development of youngsters and channelising their talent in a right way.

Moreover non-involvement of youth which constitute the one third of country's population in decision making has led to the frustration among the youngsters. Mostly elders find that the youth is lacking the experience; so they are not involved in decision making process in the country as a whole. This is also one of the major problems perturbing the youth. There are even national organizations in the country which claim that they are working for the welfare and upliftment of youth, but many of these organization don't have even a single youth either in their management or advisory body.

Besides the drug addiction is a growing problem among the youth especially in the urban areas. This has become a serious challenge before the country and calls for action in the direction of channelising the energies of youth in a creative manner.



As the aspirations of the youth fail to match opportunities, youngsters across the country, even some school children take to crime including murder and extortions as a short cut to fulfill their lavish life style. Even the criminologists have been hinting that the crime rate among the youth has skyrocketed. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in its latest report states that young people are responsible for 56 percent of all crimes committed in the country. This is a serious issue and needs attention as the crimes committed by youth have increased by 40 percent in the past decade.

Moreover, according to a survey about 37 percent of the country youth from the age group of 25-34 are engaged in agricultural and allied activities as cultivators, agriculture labour or in livestock, forestry, fisheries, hunting etc. The young workers constitute the majority of marginal workers with the exception of livestock, forestry, fisheries etc. in which the share of youth is little below than half.

Besides in transport, communication and storage 69.73 percent and in construction 60.56 percent of marginal workers are between 15-34 years age group. But on the whole agriculture and allied occupation absorb the largest number of youth as marginal workers. Due to the mounting problem faced by the youth in the country, the work participation rate of our youngsters is rather low in India. This is more acute in the case of rural areas as the problems of unemployment and underemployment are severe in rural areas.

So, it is the prime responsibility of the Government and other agencies to address the concerns of the youth to ensure their participation in nation building process.

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# DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAIN STREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Prof. Devinder Singh\*

Forty percent of population is represented by youth and with the concept of globalization and modernization, the youth is a focus of the society. It is now being widely debated that inspite of increase in literacy rate, the majority of this segment is frustrated and disillusioned. In last few years, it has taken the shape of nationwide matter of concern. No doubt we are passing through an age of science and technology and the man has achieved a lot materialistically and has got the comforts to facilitate his life-style. He is making use of every thing to his needs. During this period, which is an era of knowledge explosion, man has gained a lot in every field of knowledge. He has specialized himself in every field and achieved everything materialistically but to his utter surprise, after achieving everything, he is not happy and also lost his peace of mind. The youth also could not escape from such situations. Daily we are hearing heartful sad news wherein the future of society/nation gives us dangerous signals. Almost every individual, family is concerned with this problem in one way or the other. The various segments are being blamed for all such eventualities but everyone feels it a serious danger to the individual or the society.

A number of attempts are being made to analyze this trend to overcome such problems. Indiscipline, disrespect, revolt, accusations, intoxication etc. have been found amongst the younger lot. Generation gap, disregard for old value system, influence of west and globalization, T.V. channels and mobile culture are being considered adding to all such factors. It is pertinent to add that modernization and globalization are not

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bad concepts and one must learn and adopt these with the pace but following blindly to such ideology is dangerous. By loosing everything of our own and following others, which do not fit in our own framework, is always harmful and dangerous. Because of such adaptations, the youth is also derailing.

India is a great country with high traditions and rich culture. It is a largest democracy of the world and now the youth is a part of it. Its derailment can lead to chaos and disaster. Thus it is the ripe time to address this national problem.

It is a natural truth that when a child comes on the earth, he has no language, no religion, no dress, no caste. Thus his first place to learn is home and teacher as his mother. But, it is also a truth that the mother has no time to feed, to look after and to love him/her and a maid servant looks after him. Thus, the newly born baby learns what his maidservant teaches him/her. Then comes the school, which is his second learning home and in this way his personality develops without the love of his parents. But on the other hand, the parents have high hopes from their children. Every parent, whose child had grown up under such circumstances, expects much more. Most of the parents, wish that their children should become what they want but they never thought that what are their duties towards them.

The parents can play a role model for their children but what happens when a child sees his father/mother telling a lie, doing wrongs and teaching/advising him/her to be truthful and never do a wrongful act. In this way every problem relating youth has its roots in the family affairs where, the responsibility of parents cannot be ignored. If we just list the causes, the following can be identified.

1. Unemployment.
2. Economic Factors.
3. Defective Educational System.
4. Erosion of moral values and ethics.
5. Non-availability of role models.
6. Political factor.



Generally, it is observed that it is the wish of every student to procure employment in lieu of his educational qualification in the Government sector. In spite of a number of improvements in the educational pattern, the education is still traditional in nature and lacks job orientation. Thus a student always wishes to join job-oriented courses so that he/she may secure government job immediately after education. It needs to be mentioned here that it is not possible for the government sector to provide employment to every student. A general survey indicates that every year about 6000 students get Bachelor Degree from the University of Jammu and thus in 10 years, the strength goes to about 60,000. No doubt a number of posts/schemes are created/launched by the government to absorb the educated lot but still it is very difficult to accommodate such a high number of graduates in the government service. Thus the need of the hour is that a student must find ways and means to be self-sufficient to meet his/her livelihood or seek job in the private sector for his livelihood. If every one depends upon the government, then it can lead to unrest among the educated. On the other hand, the Educationists must also modify the present education system so that a student becomes self-sufficient after completing his graduation. The economic imbalance also leads to unrest among the student community. In the course of their studies, one feels that rich is becoming more richer and the poor is becoming more poorer. These economic imbalances lead to frustration among the majority of the students who are below the middle-income group. Thus this problem of the student's unrest needs to be addressed by the government so that a balance is made. Luster for more money and meet their lavishly livelihood, the students involve themselves in wrong methods and such activities lead to unlawful activities. At number of occasions, the government schemes were introduced wherein unemployment stipends were awarded to the youth but such schemes also did not satisfy the majority of the affected lot.



Although a number of modifications have been made in the educational system, prevailing in India since independence but still a lot is to be done in this field. In the latest, National Policy on Education, it was highlighted that the system needs a lot of improvements wherein the job-oriented courses may be introduced along with the traditional pattern of education. The examination system, the internal assessment system, the teaching learning methods, the curriculum modifications, and all other aspects which lead to confusions among the students need to be addressed immediately. It is a matter of great concern that we are losing faith in our educational system. Thus the educational system becomes the source of more frustration and unrest among the youth.

In the era of knowledge explosion and information technology, it has been observed that there is a great erosion in moral values and ethics amongst the modern youth. It is happening in political system, cultural system, religious system etc. Further, no moral value oriented education is available for the youth. Thus there is a great unrest and dissatisfaction among the youth. The time is right for revival of moral education amongst the youth so that same builds up the environment of morality and ethics amongst the youth. The India has a rich heritage, which speaks of its superiority in all the aspect. But the present educational pattern did not highlight it and we are moving from light to darkness. Thus the need of the hour is to create a moral and ethics oriented environment amongst the youth so that a sense of satisfaction, comes to them to develop cordial relationship. This will also lead to identification of the role models amongst the youth so that they can follow all such role models. The biggest challenge before the teaching community is to present themselves as a role model because the personality of the youth is shaped by the teachers, where as the graph of values is falling day by day. There was a time when teachers were regarded as one of the role models amongst the society and '*Masiha*' of social justice.



It needs to be mentioned that the present political scenario has also led to unrest among the youth. No doubt, with the lowering of the age for voting in the democratic set up of the country, the youth is being misused by the political bosses. Almost every political party is misusing the youth by misguiding them on various fronts. No doubt, one of the objectives of the educational institutes is to generate political awareness amongst the youth to be the future leaders for the country. But the present political set up inculcates such values, which are more unethical for their guidance and upliftment. *Gundatism* in political set up has misguided the youth for their role in the Indian democracy. The society has been labeled as corrupt. To inculcate the moral values it needs to be propagated for a corruption free and ideal society.

In the light of the above, it can be concluded that the future of India i.e. the youth needs a proper direction and guidance from every quarter to minimize unrest amongst them. It also becomes important for every youth not to be misguided by such elements or, which lead to unrest amongst them. They must realize that the future of India lies in their hands and they are the real '*waris*' of it.

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# DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM MAINSTREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Prof S.R. Khan\*

Youth are an important asset of any nation, who will shoulder responsibility in future in different areas of life and governance. They are not only the future of a country but also the hope of the world. In every era, young people were, are and will remain most vigorous, creative and pioneering group in society. They are at the forefront of social, economic and political development. The healthy development of youth is the most important ingredient for the harmony of the society, vitalization of a country and prosperity of the world. They are the important force to maintain world peace and to promote common development.

Youth are our greatest investments. They are the administrators, scientists, leaders, artists and missionaries of tomorrow. Now a days this is common to see so many young people losing their future, hopes and dreams on the pretext of one reason or the other. Most of them even do not realize the magnitude of their actions. They are always after big fantasies and dreams. They worldwide remain precarious. The needs and aspirations of them are still largely unmet satisfactorily. The word “Youth” is related to many social problems as highlighted in the media quite frequently. Last twenty years have resulted in dramatic increase in youth related problems such as alcohol abuse, drug abuse, smoking, teen pregnancy, antisocial behavior, sexual addiction that make them vulnerable to various diseases. However, recently issues such as loafing, teen violence and detachment have been plaguing young people and are in forefront of our media.

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Youth also face the double jeopardy of surviving adolescence and developing a positive identity as an individual in a frequently hostile, nagging and condemning environment. It is difficult and complex period of development filled with anxiety, stress and tension. While making the transition to adulthood, youth are experiencing physical, emotional, intellectual and sexual changes along with socio-cultural, family and peer group pressures. Further, there is a constant pressure for compliance and excessive demands to excel in examinations put forth by the parents without giving due consideration to their intellectual capabilities and capacities. Although majority of youth will pass this stage early without many problems, for some youth at least all these pressure make them vulnerable and they might succumb to these happenings and turn to undesirable behaviour.

With particular reference to youth of J&K problems are added by current socio-economic and safety situations, concern due to increased militancy in the state, which resulted into heightened fear, stress, anxiety and tension. Many of the youth's especially belonging to particular community seems to be lured by hard core militants, brain washed and instigated to create lots of troubles for the fellow citizens, in the state and outside the state. For some youth who may not be guided by any specific philosophy, may taste the power of easy mind by pretending to be militants or associate of the militants and indulging in extorting money from the people. They want to make quick buck without much hassles. They may also be striving or solicit sexual promiscuity by frightening people and threatening them their life. Their may by some youth who are frustrated because of lack of opportunities for business or employment and see a very bleak future for themselves, may be frustrated and try to emulate the youth who have already drifted away the mainstream for the want of easy money, power and sex.



## **Causes**

There are various psychological and socio economic causes responsible for the problems in the youth. These are personal fable, youth's egocentrism, imaginary audience, highly demanding parents, pressure for excellence, high level of achievement at every level, cut throat competition, vacillation of values, wanting success through shortcuts, sexual experimentation, depiction of excessive violence in media, unrealistic expectations, poor self-concept, low self-esteem, lack of purpose in life, homosexuality, delinquency, alienation, intergeneration gap, insecure future, exploitation by political parties, impact of social climate and many more.

### **Personal fable**

Personal fable is one of the major cause of youth problems. It is defined as the belief that they are unique, special, and right. Unfortunately youth do not see the link between their actions today and the consequences tomorrow. They have a tendency to feel indestructible and immune to the problems that others experience. Paradoxically they have a very sound belief that they are very unique and anything wrong can happen to others but not to them. They have the tendency to underestimate the probability of negative outcome for themselves and because of this tendency they do not hesitate in going for wide variety of risk taking behaviour like unsafe sexual practices, excessive drinking of alcohol, experimenting with drugs. They are at high risk for accidental injury and are most stimulated towards violence and the initiation of life styles and habits which present long term health risks. Free availability of contraceptive devices has also given rise to sexual crime or adhering to different sexual preferences.

### **Ego-centrism**

Ego-centrism is defined as a self-centered behavior or attitude of an individual, to believe that they are very special. It is characterized by an inability to assume an objective point of view. Egocentrism is sometimes apparent in behaviors that



seem to be motivated by the youth's belief that everybody is watching them, this makes them terribly concerned, an imaginary audience that is always watching them and passing judgment. It is because of this imaginary audience youth are continually reacting and often very self-conscious. Youth's self-consciousness might contribute in vandalism, teenage pregnancy, drug-abuse and other related behaviors.

### **Sexual experimentation**

Youth is a time for trying new things. They try them for many reasons, including curiosity, to feel good, to reduce stress, to feel grown up or to fit in. It is very difficult to find which of them are only experimenting and who among them will develop serious problems. They often find themselves in conditions which are unfavorable. They are vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases with HIV/AIDS being the most threatening factor to their lives. Most parents are unaware of the activities of their young wards, and that parents who should be the primary source of helpful information and knowledge for this particular age group are uncomfortable to discuss sex with their kids because of their conventional mind-sets. The suppression of sexual information and inadequate obscenity laws end up doing young people more harm than good.

Pregnancy for an unmarried teenager is often a serious youth problem. The vast majority of youth pregnancies are unplanned. There are many psychological factors that motivate sexual intercourse, leading to pregnancy. There is the personal fable that stresses the special invulnerability of the youth and that is premised on the belief that "it won't happen to me." The majority of pregnancies occur accidentally and as a consequence of ignorance or misinformation concerning sex and contraceptive.

We paid and continuing to pay a very high price for the silence in matters pertaining to the honest, straightforward presentation of sexual information. We are doing our young people a real disservice by attempting to "protect" them from straight and open information that is imperative for adjustment



in the “real world”. Our efforts to prevent youth from establishing contact with the real world, whether beautiful or painful, does nothing more than widen the gap between ourselves and them, and make effective adjustment to life more difficult.

### **Homosexuality**

Homosexuality is a relatively common sexual orientation. Homosexual adolescents have been more visible and more outspoken in recent decades may account for the popular perception that their numbers have increased. There is no clear agreement on causes, so it is highly resistant to attempted orientation reversals. Several studies have found that a majority of gay youth received professional help for conflicts usually related to their sexual identity. These interventions often worsen conditions for these youth because the therapist or social worker is unwilling to acknowledge or support an adolescent’s homosexual identity. Many gay and lesbian youth are still encouraged to “change” their identities while being forced into therapy and mental hospitals under the guise of “treatment”.

### **Delinquency**

Delinquency is a legal rather than a scientific category. A delinquent is a juvenile who has been apprehended and convicted from transgression of established legal rather than moral laws. Adult in similar situations are criminals rather than delinquents. A complex set of psychological and social forces impinges on the potential delinquent, although no single factor can reliably predict delinquent behavior. Social class, age, sex, home background, intelligence, personality, relationship with father and peer influences are all implicated, but these do not give a complete picture. Clearly, many youth from the most deprived of backgrounds are not delinquents, and many from apparently superior environments are.

### **Depiction of excessive violence in media**

The youth of today are surrounded by technology and entertainment that is full of violence. It is estimated that the average youth watches from three to five hours of television



a day. With the exposure to so much violence on television and video games and hearing about violence influence the behavior. We can see it in the way they attempt to emulate their favorite rock stars by dressing in a similar style and the way children play games, imitating their favorite cartoon personalities or super heroes. Studies have shown that extensive television viewing may be associated with "aggressive behavior, poor academic performance, precocious sexuality, obesity and the use of drugs or alcohol". Television, videogames, multimedia messages and music are very influential and if there is too much violence available for children to watch, play or listen to, this can sway their attitudes in a negative direction.

### **Unrealistic expectations**

With the vast increase of education and travel, and the growth of the mass media, the horizons of expectations of young people have widened, but inevitably new expectations often cannot be fulfilled. Young people are financially dependent but increasingly expect to define their individuality through consumer goods. When decisions are once taken out of their hands by moral commands they are expected to make personal choices which can have life and death consequences for themselves and others.

### **Poor self-concept and low self-esteem**

Many youth decide not be open about their problems and try to hide them from their families and peers. The pain and loneliness of hiding often causes serious harm to the mental health and social development of these youth. A serious consequence of this adaptation is that they suffer fears and low self-esteem in silence. They live in perpetual fear that their secret will be discovered and become increasingly afraid to associate with others. These youth suffer from chronic depression. They may run away from home with no one understanding the reasons.

A predisposing factor of problems among many adolescents is poor self-esteem. A poor self-image contributes substantially



to a lack of confidence and a youth with poor self-esteem and poor coping skills are vulnerable to suicidal feelings.

### **Vacillation of values**

Due to disparity in ages, the elderly group tends to hold set views which run contrary to the ways of thinking of the younger generation. Differences of opinion arise and they lead to misunderstanding within the family and often come in conflict with the aspirations of the youths. Elderly people cannot tolerate the modern ideas and ways of living of the younger generation, the youth are thus made to stand critically at crossroads at such a great moments in their inexperienced young lives. There is a conflict of values, characteristic of a transition from a tradition-directed society to a highly intricate acquisitive-competitive society. Rapid and radical cultural and social change had produced situations where the experience of one generation does not seem to be meaningful or relevant for those of next.

### **Rising crime scenario in society**

The rise in crime in our society is part of a more general rise in youth problems. It is connected with changes in the status and expectations of young people. Rising unemployment rates are affecting, as youth become over skilled and increasingly specialized. Despite the widespread use of the internet and other communication technologies, youth are feeling disengaged and suffering the usual teenagers needs to be in a group and have others like themselves surrounding them.

### **Remedies**

Young people have aspirations and want to participate fully in the lives of their societies. They are the key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. They should live under conditions that encourage their imagination, ideals, energy and vision to flourish.

- To facilitate authentic youth growth parents, peers, school personnel's mental health professionals and community members need to achieve and maintain emotional neutrality, develop the capacity for genuinely



relating to and enjoying the uniqueness of each youngsters, and adhere to the larger developmental perspective.

- There should be a continuous channel of communication between parents and their grown up children. Teachers and students, politicians and youth at the maximum, should not miss any debate opportunity to dialogue and debate with the youth on the philosophy they might pursue.
- People in Indian Sub-continent have a tendency to label sex as a bad concept. While the fact remains that sex is the nectar of life and plays an important role in the creation of human progeny. So, instead of labeling it negatively we have to present it in a positive way. Its fulfillment in a proper way and at an appropriate time by marrying a suitable boy or girl makes it a blessing and worship. So we should not portray it as something one should keep away, rather, we should present it in a very positive way as something which binds the people into a strong loving bond and helps in playing an important role in mental and physical health, according to the socially approved way.
- Parents should control their kids firmly without getting into serious conflict with them, and manage to persuade their young ones with trust and allow them to make the decisions.
- Providing them proper information and knowledge, giving enough and quality time right from the beginning. Parents should talk more to the children particularly youth about happenings in the society, discussing the virtue to leading the pious, healthy and truthful life.
- Parents need to be as open and attentive as possible to their young children's difficulties. Promoting cultural values and moral education in today's youth.



- Parents should be the primary source for imparting proper sex education to their children.
- Health care programs aimed at preventing AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease need to be directed toward youths. Alcohol and substance abuse programs need to target youth as a population at risk.
- Direct interventions for unplanned pregnancies include proper sex education and information about the means of contraceptive.
- To enhance the development of self-esteem.
- Psychological consultation and if necessary getting or providing proper counseling and psychotherapies.

The progress of human civilization relies on youth and continues by youth. Let us join hands and cooperate with each other, making endeavors to build a harmonious world with lasting peace, common prosperity and supportive environment for the growth and development of young people.

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# DERAILING OF THE YOUTH FROM THE MAINSTREAM – CAUSES AND REMEDIES

Dr. S.P. Vaid\*

During the last one hundred and fifty years or so, man has made amazing progress to master Science and Technology. However, like his primitive ancestors he is not the master of the situation in which he finds himself. The reason is simple. The rising wave of violence among the youth throughout the world is due to complete erosion of human values as is apparent from their conduct. Greed for money and sensual pleasures have become the goal of life. A very high proportion of children in educational institutions are involved in smoking, drugs, sex, stealing, lying and cheating. Surveys indicate that children, before they are sixteen, see on the televisions thousands of acts of violence : and by the eighteen equally large numbers of scenes that excite sensuality.

The youth form about 40% of the whole population and as such they are the future of their nation and the backbone of any society. Keeping in view their strength and role during freedom struggle Movement, the hope lies essentially in the youth. If they seem to be drifting towards self destructive ways, it is squarely the fault of the Parents - of broken homes, fractured relationships and indifferent upbringing. Just as an atom is the building block of the Universe, a family is the building block of mankind. In an atom, protons, neutrons and electrons are held together by the strong atomic force. A family is held together by the strongest force of all-selfless love. If this central force is removed, then mankind is doomed. Even among the worst victims of the prevailing and rapidly deteriorating moral values, there are many young persons who have the necessary courage and initiative to

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break out the crippling practices and make the life purposeful. There are millions of youth round the world who have potential for leadership, have a vision to build a better world ; a more caring and sharing world : indeed, a more compassionate world.

Going down to the basic causes of the derailment of youth from mainstream is indeed a debatable and crucial issue for all of us. At the outset we should not forget that in our educational institutions, value oriented education is hardly imparted to the youths which may enable them to meet the challenges of life and to make them as a fine human beings.

Let us not forget that Parents and teachers have always played a decisive role in the upgradation of the quality of people in different parts of the world. Civilizations reach their golden age of pinnacle when parents are aware of their fundamental duty to groom their children as an ideal men and women; also, when there are teachers who are worthy of this noble profession. This only happens when both parents and teachers are conscious of the fact that the real aim of education should be to make a youth as real human being. For grooming such men and women, parents and teachers must ensure that children must grow up in an atmosphere of reverence, devotion, mutual service and co-operation. Now, they learn only copybook maxims, devoid of any sincere urge to put them into practice. Parents drink, gamble, scandalize others and utter blatant lies in the full hearings of these tender flowers. Not that but even in some cases they sow hatred or contempt for some caste or class, faith or cult in the virgin minds of those fresh blossoms. Parents first, teacher next, playmates and companions later and elders who command the allegiance of community or region last, have to be on the alert, constantly examining themselves whether they are fit examples for the children of the land.

Parents and teachers have to guide their wards on spiritual path. The secret of success for fulfilling these needs is to start early, drive slowly and reach safely. Spiritual foundation of children based on the universal human values of truth, right



conduct, love, equanimity and non-injury should be laid very early in their lives.

First and foremost; children have to be raised to become persons of character. There is no way absolutely none-by which children can be moulded other than by personal example set by Parents and teachers. So, the first need for both, in this challenging obligation is to examine themselves if they are worthy of emulation. If not, then the only real contribution they can make in rearing children is to transform themselves. Let there be no reservation in the mind of any parent or teacher about their ability to transform their own character. All that is needed to achieve this goal is a sincere and persistent effort. The reward is massive; perhaps the most attractive benefit is enduring personal happiness.

Mother is the main architect of the character of her children. That is why a mother is such a hallowed person all over the world. In India a mother is bracketed with God. "God could not be everywhere, so he made mothers." It is a fact of history that the character of every outstanding leader was formed by the influence of his mother. Take the example of Shivaji the Maratha chief, Mahatma Gandhi the father of Indian nation and Winston Churchill the Prime Minister of the U.K., Benjamin Franklin the founding father of the U.S.A. In the lives of all those outstanding personalities the mothers played a vital role in moulding their character in the right way.

Motherhood is the most precious gift of God. Mother is the maker of a nation's fortune or misfortune, for the shape and the sinews of the soul. These sinews are toughened by lessons they should teach; fear of sin and fondness of virtue. If one want to know how advance a nation is, study the mothers. Are they free from fear and anxiety; are they full of love towards all. Are they trained in fortune and virtue? If one like to imbibe the glory of culture, watch the mothers shaking the cradle, feeding, fostering, teaching and fondling babies. As the mother, so the progress of the nation; as the mother, so the sweetness of the culture.



Slowly over a period of a few centuries, the Indian womanhood was displaced from the lofty pedestal of motherhood and reverence. It happens in most prosperous societies, when they are obsessed with material wealth and sensuous pleasure and start rolling in luxury. A woman then becomes an object of sensuality rather than reverence.

There is also another side of a mother's role in moulding the character of the children. Sometime back a scholar carried out a study on bringing up of children by mothers. There is an interesting comparison between the ways an Israeli and an Indian mother handle a child when it learns to walk. This study brings out several characteristic differences interception of Israel vis-à-vis India, but one is worth taking a note of. An Israeli mother stands at the other end of the room and encourages the toddler to walk towards her, if, on the way, he topples, she does not rush to pick him up even if he is crying. Instead, she encourages him to stand up and walk again on his own. When he finally reaches her, she gives him all the love and affection. On the other hand most Indian mothers handle the same situation differently. They too encourage the child to walk. However, if on the way he topples, falls and cries then they rush to pick him up that is not the end of the story. They start beating the floor and say 'naughty floor has hurt my child'. At this the child stops crying. At the same time, he also get a firm conviction in his mind that if any misfortunes were ever to happen, or in the event of failure, he could put the blame on somebody else.

Youngmen who have such an attitude firmly ingrained in their personality from childhood feel difficult to adjust themselves in the existing scenario of competition. Fortunately, there are numerous mothers in India who do bring up their children to inculcate self-reliance and other good qualities and traits in them. However, there is a great need to spread this essential awareness among mothers the world over.

While the first guide of the child is the mother, the second is father before the teacher steps in. The father has to devote



more time to the family if harmonious and happy environment has to prevail for the children to grow as well adjusted adults. Admittedly, his major contribution is by the example he sets through his conduct. It is his duty to see that moral ethics among the children prevail in the family or not.

In the industrial societies, a large proportion of married couples try to adjust their lives in a manner that both husband and wife can go to work. Whatever be the compulsions for such an arrangement, a good deal of experience has been gained about it during the last sixty years or so. It is not easy to generalize, but by and large, the impact on the children of such couples, brought up by the nannies, relatives or in creches has been adverse. There is a growing opinion among those who have been through it all and can look back with some detachment, that the wife should work, if at all, only after the youngest child is five years old.

The teachers also play a pivotal role in shaping the personality of the child. A teacher, like an artist, has to shape, enrich and mould the character, wisdom and culture of each individual student. To do this daunting work, a teacher has to be aware of the truth that there is no way-absolutely none-through which he can succeed unless he is a person of character, wisdom and culture himself. Character is the hall mark of a teacher. A life without good character is like Shrine without light; a coin that is counterfeit; a kite with the string broken. The first need of a teacher in his role, is to know his pupil well. A good teacher knows his pupils better than their mothers do and cares even more. A teacher has to be an ocean of love to fulfill their requirement. The teacher should set an example about the search of success in life by incessant work, self reliance, fearlessness, cheerfulness, Universal love and concentration of mind. Concentration is a great virtue that a teacher has to teach. Let the teacher should take up one idea. Make that one idea his life' think of that, dream of that live on that idea; let the brain, the muscles, nerves, every part of his



body be full of that idea; and just leave every other idea alone. That is the way to success in life, which the teacher has to imbibe in the minds of young saplings of nation.

Mastery of his subject and communication skills enable a teacher to impart the knowledge of what he has to teach in class. This primary role is not only to build character, to install wisdom and to steep his pupils in culture, but very much more is needed from a teacher. Most of these goals can be achieved, essentially through group activities. The well known saying that the 'Battle of Waterloo was won on the play fields of Harrow and Eton' has a deep significance. It means the influence that group games had on the character of the military leaders involved in that battle, who had been educated at the Public Schools named Harrow and Eton and others like it. Extra curricular group activities like music, specially group singing, dramatics, social work, gardening and the like, provide opportunities for growth of character and should be encouraged.

Discipline is defined as training which corrects, moulds or perfects the mental faculties and moral character; behaviour, which result from such training. Imposed order and behaviour under the suppression is not real discipline. The real discipline is when it flows from the heart and is visible in a an individual's behaviour all the times. Thus discipline is an indication of the strength of character and habit.

Should or shouldn't a teacher punish? The best, answer to this is given by an educator, who during the modern Indian renaissance set up a vast chain of Anglo-Vedic educational Institutions. "The relationship between a teacher and student should be like that of the parent and the child. But the teacher should not be slow in reprimanding the pupil when required. The teacher should be a strict disciplinarian. He should rule over the pupils by love and affection. A good mother does not spare the rod when the occasion demands. Same is true of a good teacher, and there is a very good reason for that. If mistakes multiply and become habits, it is the bounden duty of a teacher as it is of Parents



to check mistakes promptly and chastise the pupil. Of course, the best punishment which has a lasting impact is that which is administered privately. This is because public humiliation make the youth rebellious and resistant to change for the better. However, when the pupils understand that the purpose of chastisement is for their own good, then they accept it with good cheer. Such a response depends entirely on the respect a teacher commands by the qualities of his character, particularly, altruistic love.

A teacher must have the wisdom and sense of humour to be able to laugh at the well known quip of George Bernard Shaw "He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches." Laugh even louder on listening to the extension of the quip - "He who can neither do, nor teach, becomes a consultant!!" And laugh the loudest on listening to its final version." He who can do none of the three, becomes the Principal of a College"!!!

Political, Socio-Economic factors are equally responsible for derailing of the youth from main stream. If we observe minutely there is rampant corruption in the society and in the political system. There was a time when criminalization of Politics was considered to be a big national concern. But in the existing scenario the politicization of criminals is taking place. Mr. S.N. Chatterjee the present speaker of Lok Sabha once said, "Large sections of the people are greatly worried about the nexus between crime and Politics as well as administration in the country. I am saddened to observe that politics in the country has to a large extent, becomes criminalized and crime has become politicized."

The youth become totally demoralized when they find the governing machinery, money and muscle power being used frequently and nakedly to win elections. That is not the end of the story. But they become more restless, hopeless and helpless to find a big gap between the saying and doing of these politicians so called leaders of the public. In many cases bureaucrats and the law and order agencies including police



work, in nexus with the politicians and criminals. The people in general and youth in particular are not happy and satisfied with the conduct of majority of our legislatures who remained role model during freedom struggle movement in India. Such vote catching devices should be banned and disallowed by the Election Commission of India. The candidate fighting elections must file their list of assets showing their market value and source of acquisition with their election papers.

Our Education system, by an large, remained unchanged since the days India got independence from the yoke of British slavery. The age old curriculum and method of teaching encourage to produce baboos or clerks and bureaucrats and not fine human beings which is the sole aim of education. The present education system fails to grow any sort of creativity among the youth, but only enable them to acquire the bundle of degrees without any technical knowledge. The frustration among the youth become alarming due to un-employment. The youth are confused and tense due to bleak future prospects inspite of the fact that there is rapid growth of professional colleges throughout the country. In certain cases, these so called professional colleges, turn to be money minting commercial centres beyond the reach of a vast majority of youth because of poor economical sources. Thus the education has been commercialized due to the opening up of numberless private professional colleges. In majority of the cases the youth become totally dejected and bewildered in absence of regular appointment rather highly qualified technocrats are appointed on contract basis on meager wages. The problem has further been aggravated on the basis of certain wrong policies adopted by the successive Governments in the country. The youth observe socio-economic disparities, nepotism and favouritism in employment sector which add salt to the injuries of the youth. As their problems remain unaddressed and unattended they resort to anti-social and anti-national activities. In certain cases, our youth having potential, migrate to other countries causing a sort of brain drain in their own country.



Unemployment is indeed one of the major problems being faced by the youths in India. Due to lack of job opportunities, youngsters, in certain cases, adopt the path of crime including murder and extortions as a short cut to fulfill their lavish life style. Even the criminologists formed the opinion that the graph of crime rate among the youth has gone up all these years. In the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai considerable number of workers engaged in household services commit murder of the kith and kin of their employer in order to plunder wealth. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in its latest report, mentioned that the youngsters are responsible for 56 Percent of crimes committed in the country. In certain cases the young people without any job take gun in their hands and indulge themselves in terrorist activities. This is very serious issue and requires immediate attention as the crime committed by the youth have increased by 40 percent in the past decade.

Next major problem facing the youth are the provocative movies, Low morale exhibited through these movies and T.V. channels, yellow-Journalism, novels etc. etc. In these so called informative programmes violence, sex, crime, vulgarity and obscenity are depicted causing irreparable loss to the immature minds. The western culture, especially the bad side of it, has corrupted their minds and there is total sell out to the cellphone and hop culture. The situation become all the more alarming when in big cities call center bonanza put huge sums of money in the hands of young boys and girls. The life of the modern youth has adopted the materialistic approach dreaming to become rich overnight and enjoy luxurious type of life through fair and foul means. There was a time when the word divorce was unknown to the ancient wife. According to Hindu custom and tradition marriage was considered as a sacred bond. But now the things have changed and divorce has been permitted by the law. The Government has appointed and authorized the marriage officer to register marriages even



if the same is being done against the consent of the parents. The result is that the love marriage are on the increase but with the passage of time it has also been observed that such love marriages prove to be totally failure.

Today Joint - family system is fast disappearing from the Indian society. There were the days when Joint family system was considered as foundation stone of the family life. According to the system the Parents, their sons, daughters, grandsons, grand daughters, cousins used to live under one roof having a common hearth. The elder member of the family was considered as the supreme commander and his writ prevailed over the family members.

At that point of time all the earning members of the family used to pool their income at one place. Each and every member of the family including the young and the old use to realise his responsibility and liability towards the other members of the family. But now the nuclear family is considered as a boon by the modern generation and the old guards of the family are forced to stay inside 'Old Age Home' far far away from their own blood. It is common saying when the old cock crows the young one learns and as such the same type of ill-treatment is ultimately given to such parent in their old age due to lack of sanskars among the young blood. In certain areas the role of the step mother towards her step children causes frustration among them which ultimately leads to juvenile delinquency.

Lack of educational opportunities is also a problem being confronted by our youth. No doubt, in India large number of schools and colleges are functioning but most of them are located in urban areas. In the rural areas where the majority of the population live, they cannot read and write their names. As per the latest survey undertaken roughly 50 Million illiterates in the age group of 15-35 exist. Besides the standard of education has gone down. One can observe certain improvement in quantity but not in quality. Modern youth are often criticized for their acts of indiscipline, they think that the teacher is paid to deliver lectures



to them and therefore do not pay respect to him to the extent required.

Drug addiction is another major problem among the youths especially in urban areas. The printed and electronic media has exposed many scandals involving youth to take the path of drugs and to spoil their precious career even during their study days. Recently during Holi festival such a centre selling drugs to hundred of students was raided and from their (student's) possession costly drugs and huge money was recovered. Such type of meance has become a serious challenge before the country and calls for action in the direction of channelising the energies of youth in a creative manner.

Most of the contacts of the modern youths are of nature of touch and go and they call such acquaintance as friendship. In the social set up the youth observe that man has become individualistic in his approach. He views every thing from the view point of self-interest. In urban areas we find persons of different culture, different status and different communities. There is heterogeneity in the cities. A person comes in contact with many other persons in life but their relations are not intimate but only formal.

### **Remedial Measures :**

Causes and remedies go hand in hand. It is an admitted fact that in any nation the youth are starry eyed, full of idealism and bubbling with energy to honestly fight for a cause and it is important that at this critical juncture the power of the youth must be mobilized further to strengthen our nation. No body can deny this fact that the younger generation today faces challenges graver than any with which their forefathers were confronted. They are, therefore, require to be given chances to show their mettle. But one should have optimistic approach in him and believe in mending the drawbacks and short-comings of certain misguided youths. I would like to suggest certain remedial measures to help our younger generation from any sort of derailment or directionlessness and to make them as the fountain head of idealism, besides being proud and excellent citizens.



1. In this context I cannot resist the temptation to quote from a speech delivered over half a century ago by one of our great nationalist leaders, Sri Aurobindo Ghosh to students of the Bengal National College. To quote 'There are times in a nation's history when providence places before it one work, one aim, to which everything else, however, high and noble in itself, has to be sacrificed. Such a time has now arrived for our motherland when nothing is dearer than her services, when everything else's is to be directed to that end.' Hence our youth must realize and prepare themselves to imbibe spirit of patriotism in them. If we are able to inculcate a spirit of patriotism in our youth; I am sure this alone can eradicate corruption and nepotism from our land and inspire our whole process of economic development.
2. The youths should be provided due recognition in the society. Instead of reminding the youth that they are the pillar of nation and future leaders of tomorrow, sincere efforts are needed to have their maximum participation in decision making process at all level. They must be given opportunities to exchange dialogue with social, religious and political leaders as and when necessity arises. Encouragement, appreciation and rewards need to be given to them for their valuable services towards society and the nation.
3. The youths must participate in curricular and extra-curricular group activities like group singing, music, dramatics social service, sports, scouting and guiding and through such activities, they are sure to assimilate the value of dignity of labour. Group activities provide the younger generation the maximum opportunities to develop and consolidate character and help them to be free from fatigue and stress.
4. Tutorial groups are a very useful means to derive the fullest benefit from reading great lives of our national heroes and other classics. Students should be divided into tutorial



group with one individual emerging as leader if necessary. They must read the prescribed book on their own and then periodically meet their teacher for an informal discussion. Intellectual stimulation that such discussion provide, create a lasting impact on the minds of the individuals.

5. Quality Education needs to be imparted but it should not be at the cost of moral values. In other words quality education coupled with moral education will certainly foster certain qualities of head and heart like truth, non-violence, self reliance and honesty.
6. Diversification of economy especially in rural sector will probably generate employment to the unemployed youths to a greater extent and shall minimize chance of frustration among them.
7. Our youth must be educated to maintain communal harmony at all levels. Let them understand that India is a nation that has from time immemorial cradled an immense variety of religions and even today in free India people belonging to all faiths live together in peace and harmony. Every individual must accept the divinity inherent in each human being and the noble goal of spiritual growth and realization.
8. In this modern age of science and technology the youth have access to watch television, to study magazines and books besides the internet to gather information. The parents need not to be scared to set any limit on the amount of time spent in front of the computer or the TV but the thing which need to be closely observed by them is the kind of learning from the media and to watch the youth communicating over the internet.
9. The role of bureaucracy be made accountable to some mechanism beyond the reach of political pulls and pressure. Eradication of corruption and nepotism from our soil and galvanisation of our whole process of economic development will certainly restore confidence among our youth.



10. The young boys and girls must be encouraged to strengthen civil defence measures in rural and urban areas coupled with a network of nursing, first aid and blood bank centres to be established. There is great need to organize a vast national movement which go beyond all political, communal, regional and linguistic diversities to mobilize the youth of defending and developing their nation and canalize the mighty upsurge of patriotism.
11. Since we live in a highly competitive age of Science and technology and as such cannot afford the luxury of mediocrity, let our youth must be intellectually superior to make progress and to show their worth.
12. Democratization and decentralization of the administrative and educational systems are essential for the involvement of the youth in national building and reconstruction of society and would go a long way in exploiting the inherent human resources in the youth and channelise them to uplift the social set up.
13. Britain is a small island. During the 18th and 19th centuries the British were able to carve out the largest empire ever created in History. It is used to be said that 'The sun never sets on the British empire' how did they do it? Analysis shows that the factor which contributed the most towards that achievement was the educational system which the British adopted. The system was the result of conscious decision when they realized that their society had seriously degenerated. They undertook to inject moral values through their educational system. Thus we here in India can also imbibe moral values among our youth by including such type of subjects in the school syllabi.
14. Frustration earned by non-fulfillment of desire leads to anger and then to its linked subsidiaries-hate and jealousy, which blind a man. Desire which is fulfilled does give temporary satisfaction, but also multiplies the desire many fold; and that makes us greedy and burn with envy. Uncontrolled



desires, consequently are the source of all the unhappiness, agitation, drug addiction, crime, violence, fractured relations and divorce which are hounding most of the societies of the world. Hence it is the duty of the parents and teachers to impart such values among the youth that they refrain from too much of desires.

15. It is well known fact that in every human activity a leader is needed to guide a group of people. In general parlance the head of the family is the most common leader. On the quality of this leader, be it the father or the mother, depends the progress happiness and fortunes of the family. Hence it is duty of the father or the mother to make themselves as a role modal for their off-springs and not to set any bad example before the tender minds to have adverse effect on their personality.
16. The social services of the youth needed to utilized during natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, cyclones etc. etc. It is social service which can divert their energies for constructive and creative purposes.

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# DERAILING OF YOUTH; A SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

Dr. H.R. Shan\*

Change is the law of nature. The process of change has been active in all the societies. Human being never sits idle, he has always been inquisitive, and so he is never satisfied with the present. The outcome of this inquisitiveness of man is on the form of innovations and the discoveries in all the fields of life. The values, ideas and norms have also changed with the process of the change.

Life of the child is a helpless organism unless or until he is being helped by the continuous process of growth and development. The child attains maturity and in this process a person has to go through various stages of development which includes pre natal, neonatal, infancy, early and late childhood, early and late adolescence and adulthood stages.

Among all these stages, adolescence is the period of stress and strain which may cause derailing of youth in most of the cases. This stage starts at the age of 13 years and ends at the age of 20 years. This adolescence stage along with certain life period of the adulthood constitutes the youth of the individual. In other words the late adolescence and early maturity is the stage of youth. The most important forms of development which occur in this stage are adjustment to the mature form of life in which the individual learns to be independent of adults and plans his life according to his own wishes. Generally speaking this is the last stage in the development of the individual.

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It is in this age, the physical growth and development reaches at its peak. The growth and function of all other outer and inner organs also reaches to its maximum and almost all glands become extremely active at this stage. Emotional development is also reaches its peak in this stage. It is the period of heightening of all emotions like anxiety, fear love, anger etc., The strength of the body gives opportunity for maximum motor activity.

In the youth the social circle of the individual becomes very wide contrary to childhood. He becomes interested in the opposite sex. The friends are no longer nominal. He believes in making intimate friendship and attaches himself closely to the group.

It is the period of maximum growth and development with regard to mental functioning. Intelligence reaches climax during this period. Children learn to behave according to the norms of the society and culture. Also group sense makes them to follow the ethical code. Sexual development is at its peak during this period. The youth are sexually mature. In fact whole personality of the youth is dominated by the sex. It is the stage of autoeroticism or self love.

In this stage there is perplexity with regard to somatic variation and intensification of self-awareness. He is a person who needs security and guidance. At this stage peer group relation plays important role. The youth wants to create ideal society so in search of idealness he deviates from reality. The youth have strong desire for self sufficiency and make himself quiet independent like the adult member of the society in this stage the youth takes most of the decisions about their vocations.

If we want to make close analysis, we can find that youth is like the cross road which provide the opportunity for the youth to choose and proceed in wrong as well as in right direction equally. It has a chance of turning youth in the maladjusted personalities the chief cause of which is frustration;



needs and conflict of motives which result in derailing the youth from mainstream.

The education process, the parental care, the efforts of teacher and the environmental conditions all should be so designed as to bring proper growth and development and channalization of energy in proper direction. Human development from the stage of infancy to the stage of adulthood is not a smooth sailing process. One has to encounter a number of developmental tasks characteristics of each stage, the successful accomplishment of which enables one to ascend and reach higher levels of maturity. Several agencies such as home, school and society assist growth processes. The distinctive feature of the humanistic society is the impact of culture and civilization whereby the passionate impulses are being transmuted into concrete individuality. In the absence of this transformation or sublimation, mankind would have sunk to the level of beasts. The process of change is not so subtle and gradual that individual is seldom aware, the knowledge of these changes is very essential for maintaining the proper equilibrium in the conflicting environment of the individual and the society for the growth of the balanced personality.

Sigmund Freud, an eminent psycho-analyst speaks of three important elements of human development, namely the Id, ego and superego. According to Freud, the Id represents one's passion animal impulses and urges characteristics of the infant stage. An infant seldom discriminates well from bad and is unable to control his desires and urges. In the course of time, contacts with the world of objects and persons retain him from his uninhibited behaviour. He is forced to come to terms with reality, curbing his urges and passions. This herald is the emergence of ego.

To assist the development of ego, parents and society prescribe certain codes of conduct, the violation of which is frowned upon, gradually the individual learns to incorporate within his self a series of do's and donot's. This is equivalent



to the formation of conscience which in Freud's terminology is called 'superego'. While the Id always operates on pleasure principle the ego is governed by the reality principle. Superego checks the impulses of the Id thereby acting as the conscience keeper.

If the Id is so strong that it dominates ego and superego then we can say a person or youth is derailing from mainstreaming and is performing the acts which are against the established norms of the society. The youth is performing a kind of rebellion against the established social order such individuals are called delinquents. Society can function smoothly when all the members conform to the codes of the conduct written as well as unwritten. During this period some individuals tend to view new rules and regulations as an encroachment upon their freedom and liberty. They are prone to react violently, unmindfully of the consequences of their action.

"The youth of today are the nation of tomorrow" is an old saying but of immense significance for the country like India. The elderly people have done what they could do to elevate the country to high position in the community of nations. But the future lies in the hands of the youth and depends on their abilities and versatilities. It is the youth who can restore the country to its pristine glory—the glory of the ancient days when Indian culture was regarded as most sublime. They have to build the nation with regard to changes which the changed ideals and values have brought up in the modern society. They have to prepare themselves for the really constructive citizenship. The present day world is unstable and the youth have to be given opportunities for their proper development so as to ensure peace in the world and orderly growth and prosperity of the human race. Thus, it is clear the youth have to play a very important role in the development of the society.

In his Presidential address in the Population Association of America, Preston pointed out some diametric contrasts between trends in the well being of children and of the



elderly over the past 20 years. Transfer programmes for elders have mushroomed while those directing at children have languished. Various indicators of mental and physical health shows substantial increase for elders yet not for the young. Preston identified a number of demographic changes, including a massive shift in the age distribution and increasing instability among families, as major explanatory factors. Overall a picture shows a large scale redistribution of societal resources and a shift in well being away from young and towards the old and indicates the demographic changes underlying these disturbing trends are likely to continue. So there are many reasons for the derailing from mainstreaming and some important reasons are given below :—

One of the basic psychological needs that contribute towards a well being of the individual is security. It is fostered by the parents in the home atmosphere by the right kind of upbringing. A child who is deprived of the love and affection at home would feel insecure and is likely to carry over this feeling to the outside world. Generally they emerge from broken homes and unhappy families. They don't have sense of belongingness. They feel alienated not only from home but also from society. Broken families are curse to the modern society. Broken families are the families where fathers or mothers die prematurely deaths leaving their children at the mercy of others. In such families the children are deprived of the affection of the father or mother. Those who have to bring them up consider it to be a burden, and don't pay much attention towards them. The children fall in bad company. There is no watch on their activities. Often they becomes juvenile delinquent and later on in their life, a criminal or a disorganized personality. Disorganized personalities are the features of the today's society.

Another important need that promotes healthy development is freedom. One may be totally deprived of freedom or left for in an unbridled manner. Alfered Adler, says that parents can spoil the child either by granting unlimited freedom or by allowing



very little of it. In the former case children having grown accustomed at home to behave as they like, without any control! what so ever, would expect similar atmosphere outside home too. Lacking in self restrain such children are likely to become rebellious and aggressive when things would happen contrary to their whims and fancy. With the manifold changes taking place in the modern society, the youth of today is entirely different from the youth of the past. The means of recreation in the past were limited to Nautanki. Now cinemas and theatres attract the modern youth. In the ancient society the head of the family was the supreme and everyone used to obey him blindly. The youth of to-day want more freedom. They don't want anybody to interfere in their affairs even in studies. They go out in the evening for a stroll and want to come back late in the night.

Ours is the age in the transition. The old values are dying out fast and the new values are coming up with the impact of western civilization. Therefore, there is conflict in the generations. The older generation believes in the older values of life and the younger one believes in the new ones. This creates many problems in the family and the society as well.

At the other extreme children, who are subjected to rigid control and deprived of even basic freedom, tend to be inhibited not only at home but outside home. They would be suspicious, withdrawn and non communicative. According to Adler these styles of life would remain throughout one's life and predispose an individual towards antisocial behaviour.

Need for status or recognition is another important factor in building up one's self-esteem. Every child, irrespective of his accomplishments, craves for recognition. In various ways children strive to build up their self-image and status. In some families children are either ignored or unfavorably compared with the smarter ones from the neighborhood. Consequently, a negative self-image is developed which might ultimately result in feeling of despair and worthlessness. Having failed to attain status and recognition at home, such children succumb to notorious, socially



deprived means. They tend to indulge in acts of violence and excitement so as to arrest the attention of onlookers.

Provocative movies and novels might spur in individual to do something sensational and exciting. Truancy may be an attempt to register one's resentment towards parents and teachers. He craves for emancipation from family bonds. It is rampant in big cities where living accommodation is insufficient and wholesome recreational facilities are meager. In all case of severe truancy, it is most important to make home environment more pleasant than truancy. Increasing urbanization, break-up of family ties, overcrowding, inadequate play facilities, and low morale exhibited in films and TV programmes, yellow-journalism and above all criminalization of politics lead to derailing of youth from mainstreaming. Some of the factors arising out of home environment are overprotection, over-restriction, permissiveness, poor value system, broken families alcoholic parents, gambling size of family and poverty. Factors found in school system include harsh, dictatorial teachers and headmaster, inflexible curriculum, cut-throat competition in the class, inadequate co-curricular activities and poor teaching.

Derailing of youth is essentially a social malady. It is caused mainly by social conditions which thwart the satisfaction of the basic needs of the individual. A youth will not become thief if the environment doesn't provide something for him to steal and strong enticements to do so. Actually no person has a gene or set of genes that produced in him the tendency to steal. The popular view to deal with crime has been and still is to give the offender suitable punishment that would make him to repent and see reason. Punishment only perpetuates the evil and the more rational and scientific approach to juvenile delinquency, therefore the main objective is to reform the offender, to modify his behaviour and to rehabilitate him. People are less interested in attacking the problem of delinquency than in attacking the delinquent himself. Prescriptions for dealing with delinquency



often seem to be designed more for revenge than for prevention or reform. Ladies in the families hold the key positions, conflict among ladies, in the family, leads problems in the family life. To-day we see the nuclear families are increasing and the joint families are decreasing. Perhaps this is the reason that conflict among ladies exists in small number of families in cities. This can be considered as one of the causes of the derailing of the youth from the mainstream.

Youth in family, college, peer groups and in neighbourhood face problems of varying magnitude and intensity. Their roles although under the impact of transition, need new interpretation with reference to challenge of enlighten and adaptation and their attitudes and aspirations need to be diagnosed and analyzed sociologically under the impact of new culture. They bear the imprint of their hereditary and domestic environment which gets conditioned in their patterns of living in different groups. Their status change in relation to their group roles, but the nature of change and its impact upon their make up need to be investigated. They are confronted with problems having several dimensions. These dimensions are institutional, educational, religious and cultural and require a judgment regarding their potentialities and personality development. Their use of leisure and their legitimate place in various institutions in relation to their aspirations need to be analyzed for motivation and patterns of resistance have been posing conflicting situations. Their outlook or their personality in new culture of the college, family, neighbourhood needs a study oriented towards their future betterment and welfare. The impact of cultural changes upon the intra group and inter personal relations take place where he is and where he should be. The problems confronted by him or his group as an active participant or as a passive observer in the area of his contacts and overall information of attitudes towards education religion, social institutions, recreational patterns and politics need to be solved otherwise it may lead him to deviate from normal path.



Family— the most important of all institutions in the society— has been completely neglected by the writers in the past. It was only in the latter part of nineteenth century that it attracted the attention of some writers. Sociologically speaking, family is the heart of the social life. In the present times it has been quite evident that the family must not be taken as a mere economic tool for the production of goods: nor should it be interpreted as a sort of annexe to either the Church or State. It is, in fact, the most important and more fundamental than any other aspect of social life and therefore it should not be subordinated to any of them. “The family with its members should be in truth an economic band, a body politic, a nursery for religious aspirations, a school for the broader life of the world, and the home of the cooperative activity.”

Parents are generally criticized for spoiling the youths. Loving the child and consistent and intelligent behaviour are important factors through which the parents can get respect among the youth of today. They should not expect too much of gratitude from children for the mere fact of existence. Life will bring its own reward to their children according to the way they are brought by the parents. It is quite possible that with the change in times the ideas of parents need revision. In the past the tendency was to expect blind obedience from the young. But we are living in the society which is changing very rapidly. The 21st century society will be entirely different from the society of the past. The values which existed in the past have also undergone changes. There was a time in India when caste system used to be very rigid in the society. Society was divided into four strata. It was an ideal system in those times. The word unemployment was unknown to them. Every one was born with a profession in his mouth. But in the process of change this rise to many vices. Untouchability and casteism are the curses in the caste system. And now all our efforts are being made to break the caste system. Education, which used to be privilege of Brahmins is now the right of every individual irrespective of caste, creed or colour.



Change is the law of nature. The process of change has been active in all societies in all stages. Man never sits idle. He has always been inquisitive, so he is never satisfied with present. The outcome of this inquisitiveness, of man is the inventions and discoveries made by him in all the fields of life. The values, ideals and norms have changed with the process of change active in human society. "Sati Pratha" which used to have the value in the past is now an illegal act. There used to be Ashram Vyavastha among Hindus of the past, according to which life was divided into four stages eg., Brahmcharya Ashram Grahastha Ashram, Vanyaprastha Ashram and Sanyas Ashram. The average age of individual in Hindu mythology is taken to be 100 years. Each Ashram last for 25 years beginning with Brahmcharya Ashram and ending with Sanyas Ashram. But in the modern society everything has been entirely changed. There is no age limitation in the field of study. Education is now spreading in all communities. Thus it is clear that in modern times people have realized the importance of education and they believe that man is never too old to study. It is interesting to note that youths between 26 to 30 years old are also found studying. Thus the old belief that one finishes his studies when he attains the age of 25 years is not acceptable to the modern society.

In every great civilization it has been observed that migration from rural to urban areas is a promising feature. So we may agree with Maclver who says, "The original meaning civilization is urbanization." In the modern times we observed that a majority of the people has migrated to urban areas. The contrast between rural life and the urban life is that of social environment. These are two different modes of community organization. "The city is the environment created by the society, in which for the purpose of community living, many aspects of natural environment are modified or entirely eliminated. Under rural conditions social attitudes and social institutions present characteristics differences from those developed within city.



However, the structure of the modern society has been drastically changed. The impact of western civilization has overthrown the old values. The majority of the youths are attracted towards love marriages. But owing to traditions, their respect for their parents who are opposed to such marriages stands in their way. From the Indian point of view it is gratifying to note that these cases of love marriages have so far been few and far between.

Joint family was the foundation stone of the family life in ancient India. According to this all used to live together under one roof having a common hearth. It included parents, their sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, cousins etc. The head of the family was the supreme commander. All the earning members of the family used to pool their income at one place. Every one in the family realized his responsibility and liability towards the other members of the family. There was nothing like 'self motive' in the families. Today the joint family system is fast disappearing from society. The entire social structure is being changed. Family is no more a self sufficient unit. Many deeds which were performed by the family are now being taken up by many agencies and institutions outside the family.

A step mother in Indian joint family is popularly known throughout the world for differential treatment meted out to the step children. This is one of the causes for the increase in juvenile delinquents.

Individual and society are complementary to each other. These are two sides of the same coin and cannot be separated from each other. The newly born baby is nothing but a biological organism which cannot behave like a human being unless it is brought up in human society. On the other hand society, too, cannot exist outside human beings. Thus the welfare of society implies the welfare of individuals. If we want that society should progress, the best way would be to educate the people in the right direction.



The educational institution is most important of all the institutions in the society. It is here that youths learn a good deal. In the ancient India the child used to go to his guru from whom he acquired knowledge of all aspects of human life. He lived in the Guru's ashram till he attains the age of 25 years. He thus completed what was known as Brahmcharya Ashram. The age when one should start studies was different in different vernas. Brahmans were supposed to be the brain of the society. So a Brahmin child was required to start his studies at the early age than the children of other vernas. But this has no meaning in the present society. We find all communities today giving importance to education. It has been observed that school education has become very popular in society. The structure of the education in the present society is said to be defective. It needs major overhauling. It does not guarantee the bright future to the students. The environment of the college is not to the satisfaction of all the students nor are they satisfied with the amenities provided by it.

In the modern society most of the youth are, satisfied with the facilities provided by their educational institutions. To build a prosperous future youth should be given proper consideration in the society. The education system should be of such nature as to provide a bright future to the students. Youths play an important role in the society if they are disciplined and well equipped in knowledge. The society can only then flourish. The youths in the schools and colleges of today are entirely different from the students in the Ashrams of the past. In the Ashrams the students had to put up with the austerities of life. "The lesser the ambition the happier would be the man", was the teaching given to pupil. He should not think of acquiring worldly things. Instead he should try to avoid them as much as he could. To study was their aim in the Ashram and nothing else would pester their minds. But in the present society we see that students are not regular in their studies.



Out of the total population of India, i.e. 1,027,015,247 34.62% are still illiterate (24.15 males and 45.84 female). This is one of the many social problems. It has attracted the attention of government and social thinkers. Now efforts are being made to spread education for all.

Hereditary and environment are the two important factors which determine the personality of the individuals, the environmental school of sociologists and behaviourist regard environment as the primary factor in shaping the personality of the individual. Both the factors are important. The environment in which the individual is brought up has a tremendous influence upon the habits, attitudes and ideas of the individual. The neighbours living in his society would have their impact upon the individual. The influence of the surroundings upon the individual cannot be denied particularly in the case of youths who have to shoulder the responsibility of the society. The youth must get a suitable environment for study.

With the increase in the knowledge of physical universe man is becoming keenly conscious of the importance of the group organization for his own survival. In ancient times philosophers were interested in the theory of state. As the subject of sociology emerged as a distant science, the task of studying classification of various kinds of social groupings, their action and structure and concepts for analyzing them, was undertaken by the writers. They viewed social order as a sensitive effect of the behaviours and the mental processes of individuals activated by desire and belief. Therefore, society should develop a process of educating individual which should become the fittest member of the society without which the younger generation cannot be put to proper track.

Durkheim expressed a contrary view that, although the individual and the social system of which he is the part are mutually interdependent, a separate sense of principles is required to account for the individual behaviour and group behaviour. The social system consists of something more than



the sum of individual sensations and representations.

According to Cooley the individual does not exist independently of society or society independently of the individual. His conception of "Primary Group" is the fundamental factor in shaping the social nature and ideas of the individual. This led him to analyses society in terms of organization and process.

Mead developed a modern conception by analyzing social life in terms of "Social Acts" in which the action of one individual serves as the stimulus to the reaction from one another. He acquires culture, behaviours and symbols through the process of "taking the role of the other."

The famous thinker Simmel regarded group as an interaction system and analyzed the interactions of "Dyads" and "Triads" in great detail. His concern with the form rather than with the content of social interaction anticipated the recent sociometric methods for the study of the groups.

The most significant kind of grouping among the youth is that of friendship coterie. Two or more individuals discover some common interest and free time for conversation or playing games etc. Such grouping generally tends to consist of people roughly of equal age. Young people show the preference for the company of their age-equals and they give priority to the values and sentiments of their age-equals over the values and sentiments of their parents. There may be fair representation of all ages among the people in the given area. The groups that are formed tend to be based on the factor of age, the children form the company of their own while the youths join youths.

There are many sorts of groups of which an individual is the member and to which he addresses his behaviour. Firstly there is actual group of the people with whom he meets daily at a given time and at a given place. It is only in these groups that the individual can have new experiences. Secondly there is a group represented by the individual who are sent as representatives to defend the wishes of their groups with a sort of blind loyalty



when they are challenged by any one. A third type of group is abstracted group or "relic" group. This is a faceless group. There is a coercive belief. The roles are dropped out of memory. The "public" in the phrase "public opinion" is an abstracted group. The fourth type of group is "hang over" group. This is a group which is similar to the family in which one has membership problems and unrelieved anxieties. The anxieties arising out of families may arise again in any situation in which one has to work with peers. In this situation one reacts to his peers in the actual group. The fifth type of group is the "fantastic or constructed group". It operates more when the individual is alone than when he is in the actual group. A person may sometimes withdraw into fantasies which he is getting from the constructed group.

Man is known by the company he keeps. In the development of one's personality the role of friends plays an important part. Man cannot lead an isolated life. He is a social being. He lives in human society by forming his own group of friends. The old ideal type of friendship is hardly seen in the modern society. However, in the modern society, with the increasing sense of self interest and egoism, the old ideas are no longer followed. Real friends are rare. The conception of friendship has undergone change. The youths of today don't believe in the old ideals. Most of the contacts of the modern youths are of nature of touch and go variety. This can be termed as acquaintance. They call it friendship. The youths of today make friendship with people easily but it does not last long time.

It has become a fashion among modern youths to follow the western pattern of society. The ancient culture withstood many a storm in the past but the inclination of our own philosophers, guides and friends is responsible for the ingress of many of the occidental features in our society. Still at the moment there are two schools of thought. Those believing in the old school believe in the old culture and customs. They may be called as conservatives. Their number is quite large but they are not vociferous. They don't want any change in the



existing system of the society. But this is not, as many critics would have us believe, due entirely to nostalgia. The superiority of the ancient culture, both from material and spiritual point of view, is undoubted. But the times have changed. No one would like to be out of tune with the times. The younger generation belongs to the new school. They want changes in the existing system of values and regard themselves as progressives. There is thus a conflict of value due to conflict of beliefs which has developed a generation gap in the society and this is the main cause of derailing of the youth from the society.

Man has become individualistic in the modern times. He views every thing from the point of view of self-interest. In the cities men of different culture, different status and different communities live together. There is heterogeneity in the cities. A person comes in contact with many other persons in the life.

The importance of games is not sufficiently realized by the youths of today. If the nation is to have the young men with sound bodies and sound mind, it should be compulsory for every student to play out door games. This does not reflect credit on the educational institutions that have either no arrangements for all the students to play games every day or do not create sufficient interests in the students on the importance which they should attach to games.

The individual's way of spending free time depends upon many factors. It depends upon "the temperament, interest, need, experience and condition of the individual and according to the environmental influences which impinge upon the person." The main form in which the leisure is spent by most of the people in the society is recreation. Recreation is the mode of spending leisure. Thus recreation and leisure are closely related to each other. Recreation may be thought of as an "activity voluntarily engaged in during leisure and primarily motivated by the satisfaction or pleasure derived there from. Recreation is very wide and deep in variety and content. It is universally sought and practiced by each and every individual.



The purpose of recreation may be taken to provide satisfaction and enjoyment to the individual. "Recreation serves as an outlet for our emotional and creative desires by leading them into productive, satisfying and socially accepted channels."

In the modern society people enjoy an abundance of leisure. The majority of people occupy their leisure with some form of recreation. This leisure may become a threat or a liability to the society. It depends on the large extent how it is used.

The attitudes and opportunities for play, recreation and leisure have been considerably changed in modern times. With the increasing knowledge of science man has begun to look at the world from different angles. It is through inventions and discoveries in the field of science and technology that leisure in the large measure has been provided. How should it be used for the good of the society? This will remain a social problem unless we learn to use our leisure intelligently and satisfactorily which will influence the personality development of the individual. The derailing of youth will depend upon the leisure activity available to them in the environment and how these activities are to be organized. The importance of leisure in relation to shaping the cultural patterns and to determine the social values cannot be ignored. The character of the individual can be known by knowing how he spends his leisure. Leisure time activities contribute to the growth of personality. It is a potential liability or asset to the individual, to the family and to the society.

Leisure in the modern society has created many social problems. The constructive use of leisure tends to bring social organization while the misuse of leisure may lead to the state of social disorganization or derailing youth from the main stream. Among the factors which effects leisure in the modern society and social problems created by it, the most important factor is the technological progress made in the twentieth century. With the development of transport and communication and many labour saving devices, man has more leisure. Thus it can be said that leisure has increased by the advancement made in scientific



and technological spheres. The inventions and discoveries in the field of science have annihilated time and space. A man can now travel much faster than before. The progress achieved in the field of medical science has increased the span of life of man. During leisure time man can refresh himself by doing physical exercise and revitalizing the body and mind.

The modern society is changing very rapidly. The changes in political, social, economic and other aspects of the structure of the society have made the structure of the society very complex. A vast majority of people live in urban areas. All this has provided strains and tensions to the minds of the people. It is only through enjoying leisure satisfactorily that this tension can be reduced. Today people have more money to spend on leisure. Leisure opens the doors of cultural and educational development. Through leisure one can understand art, literature, music and other cultural activities. Leisure is no more looked upon as a wasteful time. Instead, it has been realized as the harbinger of more knowledge, the achievement of democratic ideals and creation of emotional and cultural adjustments.

The youths of today have evolved their own ideals, values and standards which are different from older generation. The attitudes and the aspirations of the modern youths reflect the sense of growing materialistic achievements. They are chiefly concerned with their own status and prestige. They have become indifferent to the values of past. The attitude of the modern youths towards religion is indifferent. Religion is based on faith. The existence of God cannot be proved by logic but we can inculcate the human values in the masses by providing religious and moral education. The modern outlook is to understand a thing scientifically and by reasoning. Thus people are gradually ceasing to have faith in religion. It is now being realized that the attitudes and the aspirations of the college youths are changing very rapidly as they do not find answers to many of the questions which arise in their minds. They are attracted by the scientific achievements. The modern science and technology has opened



a new field full of excitement and charm. Thus there is the drastic change taking place in the attitudes and the aspirations of the modern youths.

By the western impact a good number of modern youths believe in the various theories of Philosophy but they are losing faith in the important rituals like visits to temples and bath in holy rivers. Although practically majority of the youths believe in the existence of the God they have become indifferent towards observing religious practices. The modern youth is unable to remove the confusion created in his mind as the knowledge which he gathers through religion is not amenable to reason. Religion is based entirely on faith. In every religion there is the belief in the Creator or God. To the majority religion is amorphous body of beliefs symbolized by a number of awesome words. With the flourishing of modern higher education the old values and ideals which were mainly religious by nature began to disappear. Religion has failed today to give replies to the questions arising in the minds of modern youths. That is why the attitudes of the modern youths are tremendously changed.

The growing importance of education in the society has attracted the attention of all right thinking men. Now education has occupied proper place in the society. In the olden times the knowledge of man was limited, the human civilization was not as developed as it is today and the family was the institution which used to impart informal education to the individuals living in it. It was not then necessary for a man to go out of his family in search of knowledge. With the advancement of human civilization, the human knowledge increased to the extent that the need to impart education in a formal way to the members living in the society was felt. This gave birth to the colleges and schools in the society. The increase in the knowledge of man has changed the entire structure of the society from simplicity to complexity.

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# **DERAILING OF YOUTH FROM THE MAINSTREAM, ITS CAUSES AND REMEDIES THROUGH SPIRITUAL ASPECTS/SPIRITUAL EDUCATION**

**G.H Imrapur\***

Once Ali Adilshah-I, a great Moghal Emperor said “life is best of all the gifts given by God but it does not last long and one has to prove life by doing good deeds that remain for ever”. We can recall great emperor Ashoka. After seeing the dead bodies of soldiers he took the oath, not to do any war in future and he kept his promise till his last breath. Emperor Ashoka also realised the value of life, good work and humanity.

Let us clear the concept of derailing of youth from mainstream – Derailing means out of track or off the track. Derailment implies disorder in the society or not being on rails. It also means youth are out of track from mainstream of society.

Being happy does not mean that everything is prefect. It means that you have decided to look beyond the imperfections. In this connection Dharma (religion/way of life) also played a vital role & taught the youngsters of our nation that “**NO RELIGION ALLOWS TO KILL/PAIN OR HURT A MAN OF OTHER RELIGION**”. Let us also know ancient instances which can help young generation to keep them on the track of mainstream in order to lead better life in the society. There is an eye opening example of great Sadhu. The Story goes like this. Once upon a time there was a famous monk, walking on the bank of the river. Suddenly there was a big rain and river starts overflowing with full force. As the Sadhu was walking

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along the way, he observed that a scorpion fell into the river and is struggling for life. It tries maximum to reach the bank of the river but could not. By seeing the scene, the Sadhu could not control his compassion towards this scorpion. He tried 2-3 attempts to pick up the scorpion from the flowing water. Every time he picked up, the scorpion bit him. Again and again, he tried to lift the scorpion by his hand. This time again scorpion bit him. He felt a great deal of pain. In spite of repeated biting by the scorpion and experiencing severe pain, finally, he lifted the dying scorpion from the flowing water and put it on the bank. The scorpion walked away with full of joy.

A passerby was observing the Sadhu who saved the life of the scorpion. Passerby was astonished and immediately asks the Sadhu "Oh, Sadhu, are you not a great fool. What is the necessity to save harmful scorpion? The scorpion was biting you severely every time, you picked up to save its life but still you saved the scorpion instead of killing it". **Sadhu said politely, "I don't know anything, but it is my duty to save life, it is my Dharma (religion/way of life) to save the life of scorpion. I have just done it that is all"**. This story tells us that we should help others without expecting any return. Life of all creatures is important. It also teaches us that no religion allows to kill a person of other religion. Such moral stories will be remembered for years to come.

One more internet example given here teaches us how thinking can change youngster's attitude one day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to a country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people could be. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great, Dad." "did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked "Oh Yaah" said the son. "So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our



garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our pario reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

Hearing this the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are."

Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective. Makes you wonder what would happen if we all give thanks for all the bounty we have, instead of worrying about wanting more. Take joy in all you have, especially your friends! Such moral stories will certainly change the minds of youth and thinking process becomes positive towards life, nation etc.

With this background of the above moral stories **the topic itself assumes significant importance in the wake of present circumstances** especially when the education is being given top priority by the Government. Although India has made rapid advances in many fields related to development and progress, but unfortunately the educational sector has not made any achievable success and has yet to reach to the people living in far flung areas. The present literacy rate of 65% is quite low as compared to other advanced countries. Moreover, the literacy rate is quite low among the females especially in the states of J&K, Bihar, Rajasthan and UP etc. With the rapid increase in the population the literacy rate has not made any notable increase and has remained stagnant in the most populous states.

Speaking skeptically the youth of our country, no doubt, are intelligent, talented and have an urge to excel in educational and other related fields, but unfortunately, it is not to be so.



They are frustrated a lot and feel unsecured and isolated. The youths of our country are the founding pillars of progress and prosperity but Alas! The enormous potential capacity existing in these youths still remains unexplored which otherwise is being wasted in unproductive things and this speaks volumes about the reasons as to why these youths are derailed from the mainstream. The another disturbing factor is the "drop out" rate which, if not checked effectively, might assume alarming proportions especially in some thickly populated states. It is a right time that we should concentrate our energies in revitalizing the educational sector so that it becomes vibrant, job oriented and effective for the welfare of the youth community in particular and for overall progress and prosperity of our nation. Before, we proceed further let us isolate those factors which are responsible for the derailment of youth from the mainstream of progress and development.

Teachers, parents, administrators all play a vital, crucial and pivotal role in the life of young generation. The educational colleges, schools etc need teachers who can inspire and transform their lives. They must be academically sound, honest, dedicated, devoted to their profession and like friends, philosophers and guides. Teachers are to be role models whom young generation can trust and follow. Their impact on young generation is stronger and greater than their own parents (mother & Father). We have inspired youths with a lot of energy being exploited at the hands of vested interest, as they are real wealth of the nation.

Students deserve a better deal towards recognition of their problems and should not be made to suffer for faults which are not theirs. Students who got right kind of guidance entrenched on social rail (not derailment) and only anti social element of the tract (derailment) who can taken care of by law and order of our country. However, anti social elements indulging in unjustified violence or vandalism or destruction of property must be severely dealt with under existing laws, which are quite strong enough to handle.



## DEGENERATION OF MORAL VALUES

Values are not taught and they are caught. What we need is moral education within the classrooms especially at primary level. India is the land of spiritual education and it can give best gift of education to the youngsters so as to enable them to lead the country forward. This all becomes more effective, practical and pragmatic when the educational system is more dynamic, vibrant and besides other things helps in character building and articulating good moral values among the youths. Many great heroes like Emperor Shivaji, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. C.V. Raman and others had received education from their parents regarding character building, inducing good virtues and moral values, besides, developing in them the sense of patriotism which is somewhat lacking now-a days and this has degenerated the moral values. Teaching, no doubt, is a complicated business because students are such an unexpected blends of character, personality and background as we do not have a good number of skilled teachers who could look after all these factors and strive to build up a strong character base and personality make up, among the youths. Stories of legendary heroes from our great epics like Ramayana, Mahabharat, and others are not put in our text books or recited by parents to their wards at home to build and induce in them a strong will power and a sense of discipline and morality.

We can narrate a small story from an Indian epic—Ramayan. In this epic Rama becomes role model to be followed by young generation. Lord Rama is a symbol of good nobleness and virtue. The birth of Rama evinces an even worthy of remembrance by everyone of us irrespective of his country, race or religion. Sri Rama's regime which is about 7500 years old, is still considered as the best regime in the hearts of the people cutting across all barriers of province, language, caste or sect.

Ramayana in which Rama was a one of the Satvic man, a realiser and establisher. His business was to destroy Ravana



and to establish Rama Rajya an order proper to the Satvic civilized human being who governs his life by finer emotions, moral ideals, such as truth, obedience, co operation and harmony, the sense of domestic and public order. He was representative of Satvic man, faithful husband, obedient son, a tender and perfect brother, father, friend-of the outcast Guhaka, of animal leaders, Sugriva and Hanuman, of the vulture, Jatayu, friend of even rakshasa Vibhishana. Further, to truth and honour, much more than to his filial love and obedience to his father though to that also, he sacrificed his personal rights and went in to exile in the forests. To his public spirit and his sense of public order he sacrificed his own happiness and domestic life and the happiness of Sita.

In many of the pious sacred and ancient text books, it has been elucidated that who so ever keeps fast on Ram Navami, the Lord Rama not only fulfills his desires and wishes but also obtains paradise. Because of a number of good deeds performed by the Lord Rama, he has gained very much popularity in obedience, Kindness, sense of justice, limitless patience and compassion, good and greatness. "His goodness and greatness is upheld again and again on the Dusehra festival" when effigies of demon king Ravana, his brother Kumbhkaran and son Magnad or Megnath are burnt signifying as symbol of evil and vice of Ravana. Even for his step mother (Kaikey) responsible for banishing him. Sri Rama did not utter any bad words against her.

Lord Rama's kindness can further be judged when He sent Sri Lakshman to have an advice from the king Ravana, while he was dying during the battle, he advised when Lakshman bowed to his feet saying, "whichever good deed or work you like to do, do it earlier and never wait for it." In this way young generation will change their mind after having glimpses of such role models.

No religion preaches hatred against any other religion and all preach co-existence and mutual brotherhood. Due to a lot of westernization, sometimes youngsters may go out of



track in their behavior. In yogas through meditations in Patanjali. Upanishids, Mahabharat, Ramayan, Bibal, Kuran, Zoostrarion (Zen), Guru Granth Sahib (Holy Books etc.) give us peace and contentment (Even though it (religion) is once own faith but it certainly put young generations on right track. The first lesson of love is to learn how to be alone. Aloneness is the presence of oneself. Aloneness is very positive. It is an overflowing presence, you are so full of presence that you can fill the whole universe with your presence and there is no need for anybody. A man who loves his aloneness is capable of love, and a man who feels loneliness is incapable of love. A man who is happy with himself is full of love over flowing. The first lesson of love is to learn how to be alone, try it, have the feeling. Just sitting alone, doing nothing. If you start feeling lonely then there is something missing in your being, then you have not been able yet to understand who you are. Go deeper into this loneliness until you come to a stage when suddenly loneliness transforms itself into aloneness. Loneliness is the negative aspect of aloneness. If you go deeper into it, one moment is bound to come when suddenly you will start feeling the positive aspect of it. Because both aspects are always together.

### **POPULATION EXPLOSION AND POVERTY**

Minimum three things are required for dwelling namely Food, Cloth and Shelter (Roti, Kapada and Makan). The alarming rate at which our population explosion is taking place day by day, has caused many hardships and hindrances with the result potential remain untapped. Education no doubt has brought reason and effective communication skills among the educated but it is still to be made job oriented and many of the youths are unemployed at the moment. They leave colleges or universities and this very fact leads frustration and negative thinking in their minds. These factors become compelling for the youths to take up such jobs to earn their bread and butter which may be inimical for the progress of the country and there are always such elements available in the society which are looking up for such



types of youths and exploit them for their vested interests. Low literacy rate, unemployment, poor civic amenities and little health care facilities are attributed to population explosion (growth/increase). The country has not a vast resources base which could be exploited and potential existing in our youths which could be utilized for this purpose. **Due to increase in population we see that for a single government job advertised, thousands of applicants apply that itself speaks of high magnitude of unemployment and this is a major factor for their derailment from the mainstream.** Every youth after graduation or post graduation or obtaining a professional degree course, wants a job to lead a settled life which unfortunately, is not so far available to the majority of them, thus leaving them frustrated and isolated and this attributes to the negative impact on the developing society. Ignorance and lack of knowledge in pursuing at least primary education leads poverty.

### **REORIENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY**

Frustration, disappointments, callousness attitude are other causes of derailment from society. If youths fail to get what they want, even after earning a good and valuable degree through their dint of hardwork, frustration starts. Somewhere our education system has failed to give right kind of education to the young generation. There is also a greater need to introduce job oriented programmes to increase the employment potential.

- The Young generations are creator of the destiny. It is our duty to convince our young and energetic generation by quoting age old sayings **"A good name keeps its brightness even in dark days"** (Latin proverb says). India is fast progressing, the youth are her torch bearers and path breakers and in varying degrees they are determined to carve out a bright future, through the latest and advancement of science and technology available in the country. However, Present education system is partially shaking due to shift of 8th standard from secondary education to primay



education in some of the states and unreaching in remote villages. Therefore, we have to strive hard in reaching the unreached especially in far flung and hilly areas.

- History of our country reveals that we have lost two ancient famous universities of the world namely Nalanda and Taxsheela which were burnt. It was learnt that Taxsheela university library burnt continuously for 45 days.
- Importance of Knowledge—Once Dhirubhai Ambani great industrialist said in a speech made to municipal school children in Mumbai 55 years back ‘Everything is changing and IT is at the centre of these changes. Till now a person’s wealth was judged on the basis of the land, money and property he possessed. In future, wealth will be judged by the knowledge a person has’.
- Youth should understand that knowledge is nobody’s property, knowledge is nobody’s monopoly. Anybody can acquire and no knowledge will be steeled. It is open for all. Teach the youth, through examples, narrating role models, a new set of values that enhances human dignity, supremacy of reasoning, relative equality among all in certain matters, and concern for collective happiness. The new philosophy of life, religion of any nation, are worth knowing each other and see God, in humanity, to share their joys and sorrows with others.
- Youngsters must learn to be calm (In Sanskrit, Bhijam Aveedanam Jnanum). When they are calm, they can log on knowledge.
- A Chinese proverb says—If you are planning for a year, plant rice & if you are planning for ten year plant trees. If you are planning for hundred years, give right type of education to the young. All of us do not have a silver spoon in his mouth nor soft carpets under his feet. It means one must have will and hard work. A great poet Jhanpeet Awrdee Dr. Bendree said “ we need ruby but we don’t want to put efforts.”



## **PARENTS INTERFERENCE**

- Parents should not interfere in three things of their children (a) choice of education (b) occupation (c) spouse selection (we encourage our children to prove their worth through worldly success at home or abroad but resent when they choose their own life partner. Similar situation arises even in case of choosing their profession/occupation as a result without completing their degree, uninterested occupation leads them to have suicidal tendency or disappointments in their life. Provide opportunity of having freedom for bringing them on track.

## **DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUTHS**

The menace of drug abuse especially among the youths is a serious matter which needs our immediate attention. Youths are swallowing spirit, licking of shoe polish, drinking of wrong cough syrup etc. out of frustration. This menace is slowly making its inroads among the school going children as well thus, their isolation from the mainstream begins from early times. Those who resort to intake of drugs develop a tendency to become criminals in order to get quick money. This tendency is seen more among those youths, who for certain compelling circumstances have not been able to complete their education or get employment to lead a better purposeful life. The intake of drugs have readily caused havoc among some section of our society and this has completely isolated them from others. This isolation breeds evil desires in their minds which ultimately lead them to unlawful activities thus further isolating them into the world of uncertainty and destruction. In this juncture right kind of motivation and guidances required.

### **Learning From The Teacher is not an End Product**

(Role of Younger Generation and Teacher)

Teaching is not preaching. An ideal teacher teaches by examples, by citing examples, by narrating examples and inspiring examples. He should teach by setting up examples himself. Therefore teacher should be a role model to be followed



by the younger generation. In Sanskrit, Veda says, “One by fourth (25%) student learns from the teacher, one by fourth (25%) student learns from his own efforts, one by fourth (25%) student learns from association with friends, colleagues and pair groups and one by fourth (25%) student learns over a period of time”. Therefore, continuously students should put efforts in order to become perfect man.

The youths should develop faith in themselves. They should never say “no” because it really puts stop to their progress. They should develop good social habits. Here we can quote an incident of self effort of great Ekalavya. He worshiped Guru’s photo in the forest and practiced a lot about arrow so he got enlightened with the skill of arrow. This shows that in the absense of Guru one can also practice a lot with commitment and determination. Here the role of distance education plays an important role. Moral of the story is that self effort contributes his or her personality development and practice makes man perfect.

### **TREASURE OF KNOWLEDGE (WISDOM) IN SANSKRIT**

Young generation should have firm and unshakeable faith in Almighty God and have to acquire proficiency in Sanskrit so as to enable you to know our age old wealth of knowledge of Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata and the Vedic thought and philosophy. Since Persian also gives a treasure of knowledge it is worth to study even Persian for enhancement of our wisdom.

### **PRESENCE OF MIND**

As already discussed, role models are greater source of enlightenment to youth of our nation. In this connection a very nice story is reproduced here. These old stores should not be taken lightly and loaded with meaning. As such stories are a source of inspiration and enlightenment for all. The story goes like this.

One evening, three professors of Philosophy went to railway station to see off their fourth Professor, who was supposed to address a very important seminar, in the neighboring state.

When the three professors reached the railway station, they had a lot of time and therefore they kept the luggage in



the concerned Bogie of the train and sat outside on the Platform. All these 4 professors started a deep discussion on certain aspect of eastern philosophy and got so submerged, **in the discussion that they failed to appreciate the** train has already started off till **the moment** one of them realised that the train has started off. Now all the four professors chased after the train, **at least with the hope that** they could enter into the last compartment and thinking that at the next station, they would cross over to the proper compartment. Out of the four **professors only** three were successful in entering into the running train; **fourth professor had to stay back on the platform. The professor looked very anxious.** Looking very sad and dejected, a passer by was gently came to him and taps him on the back and said, "sir, you don't have to be so upset as in a span of another 10 minutes only, another train will come and will go to the same destination. **So you don't need to be so sad. The professor looked at him and said, "thank you for this assurance. I am aware of the fact that after 10 minutes, it is going to be another train here. But I am SAD not because I could not enter the train, but I am sad about my 3 friends who have entered the train."** "Why should you be sad of 3 friends who have entered the train" the passer by said. He said, **"I am sad because those 3 friends of mine had come to send me off. In a hussle and bussle, they have entered the train."**

Friends, the lack of presence of mind show here that, 3 professors had come **to send off the 4th Professor**, but they entered the train and the person who was to go actually remained at the station.

Eventhough, they were **successful** entering the train, success itself **was** a failure Eventhough, they were very functional and effective, but that was not enough and lack of presence of mind made them **dysfunctional**. Because they were not aware of the context in which they had come. The context in which they had come was to send off the 4th Professor. They were unaware of the context and an action done, out of



unawareness of the context, however, disturbed, however prolific, however the sharp action may be, when it came out of unawareness, unawareness brings about dimension of invalidation. Therefore, they remained unaware of the purpose for which they had come and result was a failure.

Presence of mind is very important while you are doing some action. Even, during meditation, if your mind is busy some where else, then it is mere wastage of time. A study of 1 hour with full concentration is better than a study of 100 hours continuously without presence of mind. Presence of mind means concentration on particular task at a particular time. The deep discussion between the professors made them forget the purpose they had come for. So presence of mind is important for a person all time, be it, you are studying, making any prayer or driving a vehicle.

### **A SINGLE SENTENCE UTTERED BY A SAINT, CAN CHANGE A LIFE OF A PERSON (ANGULIMAL)**

During the time of Mahatma Buddha Shravasthi was the capital of Kaushal (adjoining present city of Ayodhya) Prasenjit was the King of Kaushal. Everybody in Kaushal was horrified and fed up because of a cruel robber named Angulimal. He was used to cut the fingers of the people in the forest and out of those fingers he used to make garland and wearing on the neck. The robber was named so he had pledged to kill 100 people and in order to keep the record of his killings he used to cut one finger of the person killed and added to his garland. King Parsenjit was very upset, since he was a follower of Buddha, he requested Mahatama Buddha to save his people from the clutches of that cruel robber. Mahatama Buddha agreed and marched towards the isolated place where Angulimal used to live and killed the passersby. When Angulimal saw Mahatama Buddha, he called him from back...." stop....! Aye...stop!.... Don't you listen? I said stop just now."

Mahatama Buddha stopped and looked behind. A giant, ugly and devil like man was standing there. He had a huge



sword in his hand. He was about to face encountering with Mahatama Buddha.

Mahatama Buddha smiled and said, "I have stopped, but when will you stop, Angulimal....?"

Just these few words uttered by Mahatama Buddha did miracle on that cruel giant Angulimal. He fell down on knees and started crying. "You have opened my eyes. I'll leave all cruelty and misdeeds." And he became a follower of Buddha. Therefore right kind of leaders, teachers and parents required to change the mind of younger generation for productive growth and development of our country.

### **Remedial measures for Youths, Parents, Teachers and Administrators of Educational Institutions/Universities**

Although there is no ready made solution to this problem but we have to put our efforts to find a way out to tackle this problem in terms of practical and constructive approach. In my opinion the following steps may prove helpful :-

- Motivating youths to be an honest, polite, courteous full of mannerisms which in turn win and finally give them a superior social position. Avoiding dishonesty means to make money and to acquire power and leave no stone unturned to exploit a neighbour who is weak. We would like them to be different and revolt against the unholy and corrupt practices in our society.
- Personality and Character Building
- Success is a blend of efforts and imagination. Success is not a destination, it is a journey.
- Be a patient listener to anything/anybody under the Sun. Listen carefully and then respond but do not react. Develop the art of effective speaking and reasoning. Be a good listener. Appreciate others view point. Help those in need through good will, generosity and with sympathy. This will help youth in utilizing their energies in a better way. It keeps a good name in a long run.



- Personality and character building aims at all round development particularly in youths. It also means to develop their outlook, broaden their vision, intellectuality and power of reasoning. The following tips can be of much use in the wholesome development of one's character, personality and expand his vision beyond the narrowness of his mind.
- A great poet Betranand Russel quotes as while socio-cultural norms should not be too strong to allow the individual sufficient freedom of thought, expression, and action, it also should not be too weak to hold the group together and save it from disintegration. Some sort of faith is essential to hold a people together, but that faith has to be sufficiently flexible reflecting the preventing needs and beliefs of the time.
- They should improve their physical and martial fitness to develop optimistic approach in life therefore practice, determination and commitment required for leading successful life.
- They should always think the big, act the best and feel the noblest. Never let monsters of greed, hate and revenge and selfishness take control of your body and mind. These are slow poison which eat away your body and soul and put you out of track towards destructive tendencies.
- Develop a disciplined nature, leadership qualities, self knowledge and optimistic and practical approach to life.
- Counselling sessions for parents for bringing up their wards in a desired manner should be organized by the society, educational institutions, Villages NGOs etc.
- Bear a smile, whenever you come across with human beings. Develop a strong will power and courage and be honest in your dealings.
- Develop your talent to be adventurous and try to explore nature. Democratic your goal in life clearly and work hard with sincerity and seriousness to achieve it.



- Be tolerant when you are being criticized, build up your confidence, never let emotions weaken your spirits.
- During Vedic period, another moral story is an eye opening instance for younger generation. There was a slow learner child by name Varadaraj. He remained in one class for four years. He could not grasp anything. One day Gurujee fed of him. In spite of anger, he told him to leave Gurukula. Then child left the ashram/ Gurukula and was thinking that he won good for nothing. On his way to home, he felt thirsty and came near the well. He saw a small stone which was being cut by the rope while filling the water. Stone was formed in such a way that it was an excellent shape and more attractive. Then he thought, if delicate and soft rope could change the shape of stone, that was not possible for him to do good things in life by dint of hardwork. On the day onwards he took oath and challenge, started practicing a lot and committed to the study and became the famous person in the world in Vedic period.
- Understand first every religion—If people know what is good in different religions, a lot of problems would get solved easily. Even president Abdul Kalam, during his recent visit to the Saurashtra University (SU), had stressed on the spiritual aspect of life and the need to understand every religion by the youth.
- Be Polite—but the Chinese sage, Confucius, opposed the suggestion that virtue is in itself enough without politeness for he viewed them as inseparable and “saw courtesies as coming from the heart.” Advanced society is not a fellowship of the wealthy and does not exclude those who are not of illustrious birth, but it is an association of gentlefolk, of which good form in speech, charm of manner, knowledge of the social amenities, and instinctive consideration for the feelings of others are the credentials



by which society, the world over recognises its chosen members.

- Have positive mind and keep on trying—Firstly, the positive thinking keeps a person optimistic about all the things and affairs thereby enthusing extra energy in the person and such an attitude helps a person to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles coming in the way of success. Secondly, no defeat is final until you stop trying. It is always said “Try Try Again” which is the only remedy to overcome all your failures. Loosing heart means losing the battle and if you are out to fight and win the battle you should in no case stop trying again and again till the goal is achieved. Thirdly, Nothing is impossible in this world, All that is needed is strong will and determination to achieve the goal and even beyond that. For a courageous person the sky is the limit.
- Young generation should become master of the Satvic Gunas, not the gunas of the master.
- Students deserve respect and a better deal towards recognition of their problems and should not be made to suffer for no fault of them/theirs.
- Dream Success for young generation—(a) Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. (b) Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore. (c) the fact is, that to do any thing in this world worth doing, we must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in, and scramble as well as we can. (d) Daring ideas are like chessmen moved forward; they may be beaten, but they may start a winning game. (e) Success is never final and failure never fatal. It's courage that counts. (f) A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable but more useful than a life spent in doing nothing. (g) Failure is not worth having if it doesn't include freedom to make mistakes. (h) A wise man doesn't



puts all his eggs to one basket. All these quotes boost morale of youngsters.

- Role models are greater source of enlightenment.
- Young generation should learn five qualities of a Tiger in order to get success in life and leading joyful life in society. (1) Focus (Our focus should not be defocused under any circumstances and concentrating is focusing the point). (2) Power of commitment—nothing is possible without commitment. (3) Speed. (4) Strategy and (5) Skill.
- Since our capabilities are beyond limitations, whenever we get disappointment, we should keep our sorrow in silence.
- Work for higher prospective but not self centred.
- In order to bring younger generation back on track from derailment, personal healing touch boost the morale.
- Make the difference of your life through the wisdom of spiritualization.
- Learn to accept failures with gracefully.
- Youngsters should know the thumbing rule that **enthusiasm grows as they disciplined themselves.**
- Make them to understand that money will not play everywhere and Money cannot generate happiness.
- The beauty of great people lies in displaying kindness, graceful manner, humility (Humbleness), generosity and politeness talker.
- Looking back with pride and looking ahead with confidence.
- A place of prayer is holy for people of all religious Jamiant Ulahind Abdul Hamid who condemned terrorisms assault on any religion strongly, recently said that “No religion advocates hatred or attack on another religion”.

### **OVERHAULING THE PRESENT EDUCATIONAL SETUP**

The educational set up in the entire country needs to be re-structured in such a way that it becomes job oriented and vibrant with latest educational techniques and methods. The instruction of vocational trainings alongwith normal courses



can help our youth to find jobs after they complete their educational courses. This training can also help them to start their own small income generating units for which various self-employment schemes and liberal finances are available. I feel IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) can contribute a lot towards this approach. As such IGNOU is conducting various distant educational programmes/courses which are a boon to the youths living in far flung areas but recently IGNOU has also started conducting diploma or certificate courses in dairy technology and food processing through distant education programmes. These programmes/courses can help to create competent technician level human resource for the dairy industries and food processing. Besides this, it can give a boost to rural industries where primary products can be converted into value added products and this will help in a big way to encourage youths to start their own small income generating units e.g. take a primary product "Apple" and by value addition different Apple Jam, Apple Powder, Apple Jelly and more. Similarly with other primary products value addition can help to a great extent to boost rural economy by creating awareness among the youths to take on to such type of courses to start their own small profit generating ventures. Although IGNOU is taking a lead in this direction and their Regional Centre at Jammu is moving forward in this direction to make these technical courses available at the door steps of the youths living in far flung areas. Other educational institutions should also start such courses which can benefit the youth community to a greater extent and this can keep them away from other negative tendencies. Moreover, they can utilize their energies and potentials for productive purposes.

### **CHANGE IS THE MENTRA FOR BETTER IMPROVEMENT**

Having enriched their understanding through education, we can quote a traditional prayer puts it aptly by our great rishi and well known astrologer Manthreshwar, "Oh Lord, give me the will and courage to change what I can, the maturity to



accept gracefully what I cannot, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

We use the word “change” all the time in all contexts—from changing clothes to changing Governments. Change is a law of nature, it is inherent in every evolution or growth.

We make all kind of attempts to change people, especially the most significant people in our lives, our spouse, our children, our brothers, our sisters, our friends, our colleagues at work—whose behavior irritates us. Although we know from experience that no one changes because we want him to, we do not give up. If we were to concentrate all that energy in changing ourselves in accordance with our knowledge and espoused values, it would have tremendous pay off.

The polarity of views on the possibility of change is amazing. On one extreme is the traditional view that human nature is unchangeable; on the other hand, it is the view that there is no limit to what and how much we can change. This latter view is particularly popular in the United States where everyday new training programmes are born and promise to bring about changes in such basic areas as personality traits, leadership qualities, sensitivity, assertiveness, spiritual growth, loving better, to name just a few.

This view reflects what Seligman (1994) calls the ‘dogma of human plasticity’. “It was America’s answer to the early European mind-set”. The change from a deep belief in the unchangeability of character to an equally deep belief in the capacity to improve is recent, and it represents one of the most fundamental and important revolutions in modern thought strongly, this is a history that has gone unwritten. In his (Seligman) book, presents an insightful discussion of what in human beings can be changed and what cannot.

### **LEADERSHIP ALSO PLAYS A VITAL ROLE AND GUIDING FORCE**

A verse in the Bhagavadgita comes close since it speaks to the example set by a srestha—an important person such as a king,



which in turn, influences the behaviour of the rest of the people. "Whatever an important person does, that alone the other person does whatever that person sets as proper, the world of people follows."

We are in need of ideal leaders— The ideal leader is a person with strong character and unwavering principles who is humbly compassionate and responsible. We really need people who can be our ideal presently living leaders like **President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Former Prime Minister), Sh. S.M. Krishna (Governor of Maharashtra), Dr. Mehroo D. Bengalee, Eminent Educationist and first lady Vice chancellor of Bombay University, Dr. Karan Singh (An Eminent Educationist from J&K), Shri Shri Swamy Ravishankar, Shri Shri Swamy Sukhabhodanand** and other eminent leaders. Such that the people of the country can take a lesson from their intellect, honesty and way of life. Every leader asks the young generation of the country to come forward to join politics in order to contribute towards the development of the country, but it is easy said than done. In the last fifty eight years of democracy, these politicians have made a caucus around them for their kith and kin by sparing no stone unturned 'to groom/bring their wards his own ones'. They have almost made it (Indian politics). A family affairs which is nothing different from earlier time of Rajas and Maharajas in the country. Those people were legitimate heirs of the throne by birth and the present politicians are the legal democratic heirs to the political legacy of the country. No doubt, still there are value based politicians available in the country but a few. Our young generation should come forward by acquiring good leadership qualities so as to prove their effective and efficient leadership with mainstream of the society.

In the words of Swami Dayananda writes about leadership. A person who is liked up and sets the trend for how everyone else lives. There are three kinds of leaders. One is an opportunist who assumes leadership to promote a cause in which he or she



has a personal interest. Driven by the desire for power or wealth, such a person uses an available opportunity to organise the situation so that he becomes a leader. Another, who is even more dangerous, is the idealist. This type of leader looks upon society as being full of problems that have to be solved by him or her, for which this person has a particular system - political, economic or religious; Communists, nationalists and terrorists fall into this category. They make contentions that their culture, religion or system is the greatest, it has the only answer to the world's problems.

The third type of leader is one who leads, not because he or she wants to lead, but because there are people who want to follow such persons and are always ready to reshuffle their ideas in order to live according to what is true. The person may not even know that he or she is a leader. This is the type of leading that makes one a real leader. (Swami Dayananda : pp 424-425)

**In the Bhagavadgita Lord Krishna says to Arjuna—  
“Whether you like it or not, there are people who look up to you as their leader.” Arjuna was supposed to set an example; he could not just walk away from the field.**

Vivekananda, Gandhi, Radhakrishnan or Tagore provide visionary leadership to Indian education in the new millennium. What can and must be done, however is to give the highest priority, in the preparation and professional development programmes for young generation, parents, principals, executive authorities, educational administrator etc. to those elements that account for the greatness of these and other great men that our country has produced. Foremost among these is a vision that translates into a passionate commitment to the greatest good of the greatest number, a conviction that education must be designed to make an individual richer in the inside than on the outside an understanding of the sacred and spiritual aspects of human life; and a total integration of thought, speech and action in personal life, all of which, make for a role model. There is



a great deal in India's cultural tradition that is wholesome and timeless, that needs to be understood and preserved, and that is to be followed by young generation. If so, as a result youths of our country are not derailing from the mainstream of the society. They are very much with the mainstream and youths certainly will become good leaders of our nation. Able leaders are the strength of any education system.

*Author feels proud of young generation to follow these role models in their life and wishes that their knowledge to be flown like Himalayan Mountain on Indian soil.*

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# YOUTH, SPIRIT OF NATION

Dr. Gh. Mohi ud Din\*

It is an established fact that youth are the drivers of a stationed machine fixed to the ground but useless and redundant. The force, the youth have can not be mustered by a pull but this is a sustained process of efforts the youth of a nation should exercise for their perfect existence and strength.

Today's youth is suffering from chaos and confusion and his efforts are not well directed for building up of a great nation. It is obvious from the reasons that youth are not a managed force to stand by at the hour of need. We are conscious of our daily needs but of course, derive discontent. This is why we are unable to judge the role we need to play in the over all scenario of demand and need at a relevant point of time.

Education is a great source of content and comfort which can be solace and relief to today's dis arrayed youth who has only fascinations and no work place for their engagement and nothing in kind to share with others of their responsibility.

Today it is a concern for all parents and guardians that youth are disgruntled force running after flimsy comfort and cozy sleep.

I am of the opinion that youth force if directed to the good can revolutionize the nation and build it in a great way for great people and lead it to the pinnacles of module domain. A kind youth will engage in smooth conduct and prove a good leader for whole nation. The youth is foundation on which a great nation can stand upon to grow with esteem. The elders are our leaders who shape the boundaries and the youth are protection of boundaries of a great nation, I can visualize. The spirit of youth is always spirit of nation and therefore, the youth can not

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shrink his duties towards the nation. However, establishment has to do a lot for youth who by dedication can engage for betterment but incentives should prevail to check the youth to keep them aloof from demolition. The sense of sectarianism must be discouraged casteism be dis-allowed and avenues be ensured in abundance by the people holding the string. There seems shift in youth towards some inimical course and this trend can lead to demolition but this is a stage we all together should manage affairs to contain those all who damage the social fibre of unity and strength. All we, if certain in belief, should come forward and do that all we can do for the nation building and youth of this nation of course, can realize what they need to.

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# DERAILMENT OF MODERN YOUTH

**Prof. Mohammed Ayyub\***

History of our sacred land bears witness to the fact that Indian society has always been a torch bearer of high ideal principles of human life. Respect for the elders & love for the youngsters & the poor has been the golden principle aiming at a peaceful social order. There is no dearth of seers, saints and sages of all religious shades who have contributed their bit in propagating the message of mutual love, tolerance and sacrifice for others. Our older generation belonging to early post independence period or to the first one or two decades of post freedom era find a sea of change in the entire social order. Dawn of freedom has brought tremendous change in every sphere of our life. Scientific amazing inventions have transformed our mode of living & even affected our strong based age old beliefs and traditions. Modern commercial innovations have added to alround material progress. Simple living is no more a motto of our life. Fall of "Manna" on the affluent lot has given rise to chain of new aspirations. Uncountable modern additions to long list of easily accessible innovations have changed our priorities. Younger lot belonging to the modern age has no time to listen to the sermons of elders advocating high ideals of human life. They are governed more by their faster material progress. Changed unhealthy materialistic environment has but to caste its evil influene on the impressionable minds. Material allurements has a faster and deeper effect and its attraction is but natural. Looking at the fast growth in all walks of life, particularly in the affluent lot, has added to the cravings of the new comers to this planet. Their needs have no end and they are to be satisfied. Degradation

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\* *Ex-Secretary, J&K Board of School Education*



of moral standards among our rulers and men at the helm of affairs are a guide and a free permit to toe their line. Corruption in every walk of our life has left no element of hesitation in the common mind. Honesty and fair dealing are becoming a rare commodity. Moral and religious education does not fall within the routine daily task a chart of an average family.

Society as a whole has become a mixture of all opposites. Day to day episodes of scandals, cheatings and offences escaping the grip of law have added to the boldness and courage of new offenders of law. They do not mind trampling down the higher values of life for material gains. Why should not they do this all when prompt and deterrent action against the callous offenders of law takes decades to conclude the process. Present times have witnessed a long list of big and small national and international scandals lingering on, ever from one generation to the other. This long legal process has many a slip from the cup to the lip. Offenders have moved and continue to move with their heads high. This has emboldened the younger generation to take advantage of legal loop holes with no fear of social or legal adverse action. There is always an effort to earn easy money and that too in one go. There are lot many financial schemes opening flood gates of easy loans, doles, relief and other financial assistances with a little of risk to suffer punishment. There are so many commercial schemes offering a big component of financial subsidies only to boost industry, agriculture etc. Many beneficiaries have misused these incentives without caring for the spirit behind these offers. Adulteration of food stuffs, spurious drugs, narcotics intoxicants like haroin, bhuki, hemp, opium and drugs have entered stealthily into our younger lot may be the numbers are still lesser.

Population explosion continues to nullify our economic improvement efforts. Development of human resource is a mirage for the planners of these schemes. All round efforts to rope in the growing population for universal literacy may still be a road map to be followed in letter and spirit. Formal



educational institutions funded by the state are overcrowded with little commitment to the job from the employees entrusted with the job. Thus only half backed youth without proper expertise are turned out to join the all ready swollen numbers of the unemployed lot. Unplanned expansion of technical and non technical institutions both private and government managed are least bothered about proper development of their wards. Once they leave the portals of their center, they are unable to find an earning avenue. A recent statement regarding the number of aspirants for class fourth vacancies in the state is most discouraging to note that lacs of young men wait for employment against just a few hundred vacancies. Where should the rejected lot go to fend for food? No positive openings are available for them. Numbers of such idle hands is to increase with the succeeding years. Government has to take cognizance of this grave problem otherwise idle man is bound to go astray, such volatile material is likely to take course to undesirable activities. let our rulers rise to the occasion and channelize this human power in a right direction. Idle youth can be easily misled and used for subversive activities. Poverty, illiteracy and disease coupled with misdirection from the anti social elements are the solid causes resulting in the derailment of youth. These irritants are but to be removed with a firm determination. Rampant corruption at various levels is again a red rag to the bull. Helpless aspirants are being hoodwinked in certain cases. One of the members of our parliament had to point out once in the house that appointment to the post of a police constable would cost no less than 10,000 rupees. Fake appointments/promotion orders, licenses, allotments of contracts, supply of substandard material to government concerns, corruption in defense department and kick backs in national level contracts etc are a few open secrets known to all. Prompt disposal of judicial cases is a rarity. Prolonged pendency of court cases and lacunas in the judicial mechanism stand as a big hurdle in awarding befitting punishment to the guilty. Fierce psychosis in the minds of eye



witnesses to the broad day rape of law leads to the dismissal of solid cases. Judicial operation in respect of long pending numberless cases needs to be geared up to give fair judgement without undue delay. A neat and clean government backed with wills to enforce rule of law can assure fair deal to the sufferers. Once this is done the aspirants shall bear with hard facts of our dispensation. Moral degradation has reached the meanest level. Fake encounters, stage managed conspiracies hatched by the guardians of social justice have become an open secret. Lack of proof due to one reason or the other results in the failure of solid cases. Such sort of events are adding fuel to the fire. Frustration to the young minds waiting for justice is but natural. All these evils need to be tackled with iron hands. Unless this is done, the youth are bound to go astray. Country can't afford displeasure. Added to this miserable situation, there is an inner and outer feeling against reservation at different stages of selection for training courses, appointments and speedier promotions over the heads of otherwise superior lot. They curse their birth in so called forward class. This heart burning, needs to be removed to cool down the agitated lot. Reservation benefits are being taken by the creamy layer with a marginal benefit to the really depressed and suppressed people. Denial of equal opportunities to the so called forward class young lot is not a good thing. This needs a dispassionate reconsideration devoid of political game plan.

A strong check to this evil process is need of the hour. Society in general, religious priests, politicians and men in power have to realize gravity of the situation and rush for positive remedies for a come back to glorious past. Moral and legal ways have to take up this pious task. Parents, teachers, wards both men and women are to be brought into the orbit of moral education. T.V. and Cinema movies have to desist from presenting all that goes against moral values.

Once economic imbalances are eliminated from the scene there will be no sense of discrimination and thus no hatred for



anybody. In addition to this all parents are the best teachers and also a living model for their progeny they should peep into their hearts and minds and, impart true religious education to them and also see to the outcome of their efforts. It is solid fact that "it is not gold but men who make a nation great and strong". They raise the nations pillars high and raise them to the sky, love for all and hatred for none should be the motto of our life.

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The editor receiving National Award for Teachers from His Excellency, the President of India on 5th Sept., 1997.



The editor receiving Rashtriya Gaurav Award from Dr. Bhisma Narain Singh Former Governor of Tamil Nadu and Assam at Chandigarh (Pb.) on 22nd April, 2004.



His Excellency the Governor of J&K State releasing the book of Dr. S.P. Vaid titled-"How Partition Rocked J&K " at Raj Bhawan on 28th Feb., 2002.





## About the Editor

Dr. S.P. Vaid born on 18th July, 1943 at Village Gunni, Tehsil Kotli, District Mirpur, now in POK. He did his M.A. in History and Political Science and then doctorate in History from the University of Jammu. He served the education department for four decades and was the recipient of State and National Awards in the years 1995 and 1996 respectively. He was also honoured with Mohyal Gaurav Samman in 1998 and Rashtriya Gaurav Award in 2004. He actively worked as a member of the apex body of the J&K Board of School Education for a couple of years. His successful academic ventures culminated in his becoming the General Secretary of Lecturer's Forum and President of all J&K National Awardee Teachers Forum in 1998.

He has presented number of research papers in different History Conferences held at the national level. He has authored the books titled, "How Partition Rocked J&K" and "Socio-Economic Roots of Unrest in Jammu and Kashmir (1931-47)." He was awarded a Senior-Fellowship by the ICSSR New Delhi affiliated to the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India. He has literary and scholarly flair which has become a religion for him to bring out articles, books and memoirs for the welfare of the society. He is on to edit a new venture titled derailing of Youth from the Main Stream : Causes and Remedies." He is still pursuing the well envisaged ideals of promotion of education in the state.